

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmonthly o CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations o December 1999 / Issue

A Circom Regional initiative South Eastern Europe gets special TV program through sponsoring

Southeastern Europe is one of the main priorities in the busy schedule of the 2000 CR conference in Potsdam, June 1.

CR members from SE Europe, media experts from the region and from international institutions, will discuss and try to find possible ways for CR and the EBU to set up a television plan for SE Europe in the framework of the Pact for Stability.

By the end of the day it is expected that a concept of media support will be presented to the conference delegates together with a plan being developed right now under the title "Partnership -the SE Europe TV Program Project".

The project will be a pilot with an initial time limit of five years which will be designed and implemented with independent, public sponsorship. "The plan -says CR President Reimar Allerdt- includes a jointly produced television program as a guideline, which will help establish modern, democratic media in SEEurope. Employees of major European TV

stations will work closely with colleagues from the SE European region over a longer period of time". The daily program of the station from midnight to 6 am will be broadcast by Eutelsat. It is understood that the European Commission will try to make this time slot available for the new station. Nothing has been decided yet for the "major mid-European city, which will be geographically close to the Balcan region and have access to the infrastructures of modern electronic media where" where the Partnership Project will be based.

Croatia, Denmark, Netherlands, Poland Four countries vie for CR Secretariat

Four countries and a corresponding number of CR national coordinators are candidates for the seat of CR General Secretary in 2002. Poland, Croatia, Netherlands and Denmark expressed their interest during the

Portugal's Porto is the 2001 CR Conference site.

Porto, a beautiful seaside city in the northern part of Portugal, will be the 2001 site for the CR conference.

The final decision was taken during the CR European Board meeting in Potsdam, Nov. 28 CR President R. Allerdt and General Secretary Boris Bergant who visited Porto are quite enthusiastic about the available facilities and the city itself.

Porto with a nearby airport linking the city with Lisboa and other capitals of Europe is only three hours away from Lisboa by train -which is an extremely convenient way of transportation. Trains are modern and clean, with TV and taped music programs. Portugal's CR National Coordinator Djalme Neves, who was present for the CR meeting presented through video the city, potential hotel sites, etc. It is probable that the Porto conference will be held late June -"perfect timing" for some delegates who already claim spending their summer vacation after the hectic schedule of the assembly in the beautiful Portugal coastline resort. Porto (or Oporto) is a port in NW Portugal, near the mouth of the Douro River: the second largest city in Portugal, famous for port wine (begun in 1678). Population: 1.652.000.

Thessaloniki Festival will showcase best CR TV programs

An offer by Greece's ERT3 to organise a CIRCOM Regional Best Program Showcase was accepted by the CR European Board during the Nov. 27 meeting in Potsdam.

According to the plan the five best programs of the Prix Circom categories from each one of the four (or five) categories will

recent European Board meeting in Potsdam. No decision was taken, so that all parts interested make a thorough presentation during the 2000 general conference in Potsdam, explain how they are going to run the secretariat, present a letter from the direction of their station stating the backing of such an operation and answer questions.

The search and discussion started last year in Cavtat, Croatia. After the final decision the new General Secretary will spend long time consulting with Boris Bergant and his team for day by day commitments, obligations and problems.

[More reports from Potsdam, page 7](#)

A major bid for funds to support CR training in Central-Eastern Europe

be screened during a three day festival in Thessaloniki. This festival, fully financed by ERT3, with the cooperation of the Film Festival of Thessaloniki, will take place at the Olympion cinemas, owned by the FFT, in Aristotelous not precede the CR Conference and rather take place during September or October, when the Executive Committee might have at the same time a meeting in Thessaloniki and attend the screenings.

TV viewers from Greece's leading newspapers and magazines will make up the jury members who will give their prizes, irrespective of the Prix Circom



A major for funds to support Circom Regional training in Central and Eastern Europe over the next three years was delivered by Rick Thompson, CR Coordinator Training and Development, to the European Commission. A full report on this and other issues that Thompson has been involved with lately was presented during the CR Executive Committee in Dortmund. Here's the complete report by Rick.

helped me a lot. Circom means a lot to me. You can't imagine how much". One young producer from VTV in Hungary (Szeged's local station) is now producing two live programmes each week, and says the CR course helped her a great deal.

1. Bid to the European Commission

In August, I delivered to the European Commission in Brussels a major bid for funds to support Circom Regional training in Central and Eastern Europe over the next three years. This bid is to the "European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights" (DG Ia). The 75-page document follows strict rules laid down by the EC, which are designed to support stability and democratic development in target countries. The "Circom Regional Democratic Television Journalism Initiative" has eight elements, following the training strategy approved by the Executive Committee last year.

By
Rick Thompson
CR Coordinator
Training and
Development



the conference in Cavtat. The results from the anonymously completed feedback forms show high appreciation once again. An hour-long video report on the training and conference presentation was shown three times in Europe-by-Satellite, it is available on the CR website and VHS copies went with a full written report to all participating national co-ordinators. We stayed within the allocated CR budget.

3. The Trainee Network - Follow Up
Many of the young journalists who attended the Thessaloniki, Szeged and

4. Ethnic TV Festival at TVP Krakow.

Immediately before the Executive Committee, I will be representing CR at this year's EEBE Ethnic TV Festival, 'At Home', organised by TVR Krakow, conducting two seminars in multi-cultural broadcasting, and helping to judge the programme prizes. The British Know-How Fund has agreed to pay my travel costs. On September 20th, I represented CR in Strasbourg at a meeting of the "media-partners" of the Council of Europe, where I bid for funding to expand the training at the next year's Ethnic Festival. I am fairly confident that 21.000 Euros will be provided, but not firm decision will be taken until the end of the year.

5. Slovenia Regional News Study

At Boris Bergant's request, I conducted a study of regional news operations at

- Young Journalist's Workshops. (Practical workshops for the editors of the future, brought together from regional TV stations across Europe. Two workshops each year. One of these would be held at the annual conference).
- Reporting Diversity Workshops. Six over the three years. (Designed for TV journalists in the Balkans, and organised in collaboration with the Thomson Foundation).
- Newsroom Management Workshops. One each year .(For Senior Editors).
- On - site Development Consultancies. Two 7 - day projects per year. (For CR stations seeking immediate help in achieving radical change).
- Political Reporting Seminars. (For stations in Accession Countries).
- Bilateral Exchanges of Key Staff. (Between CEEC and Western stations).
- CR producer Guidelines. (Writing and Distribution of practical guidelines on ethics and standards in democratic TV journalism).

The total request for EC funds for the three-year programme is for 990, 100 Euros. There are very many competing bids for these funds, covering infrastructure, financial, legal and political reforms, as well as mass-media. So the chances of success are small. If the bid is successful, CR will have to set up a small training unit to organise all the courses, administer the finances and deliver the required detailed reports to the EC. The EC promises a decision by the end of 1999.

2.Cavtat Training Workshop Thirty-six young journalists from fourteen countries attended the 10-day workshop and

Cavtat workshops keep in touch with the tutors and each other, in an informal support network. Some of the feedback is very encouraging. For example ;

Report on Training and Development

The Director General of Albanian Television, Eduard Mazi, told me that the six Albanian trainees who went to Szeged and Cavtat had "benefited greatly" from the experience, and were doing much better work. One of them wrote to me to say the Cavtat course had taught her many useful things. "It was the best two weeks of my life. I came back from Croatia full of enthusiasm to do my work better". She has conducted her own workshop in her station, to pass on some of our ideas to others.

Kirsi Jansa from Finland, who presented our "Training for the Future" session in Cavtat, had never presented a live programme before. She said she had been too nervous in the past. When her bosses saw our tape, they immediately asked her to present the Finnish Tv network environment programme, so she is giving it a try. She has also filmed some sequences for a documentary, after using a camera in Cavtat for the first time.

A CR trainee from Romania wrote : "The training was the best I ever attended. It

RTV Slovenia's station in Koper, and have offered suggestions for improvements to the output and organisation.

6.European programme material.

Several CR stations have asked for my help in developing their coverage of EU affairs. I have been able to provide contacts, stories, and access to free programme material, (for example, the monthly Contact Magazine from the Commission, Eurinfo from the European Parliament, and science, education and environment videos from the Mostra company in Brussels).

7.AEJ

In September I attended the Association of European Journalists (AEJ) annual congress in Berlin, and was able to address the conference briefly to tell them about Circom Regional. They have offered support for our training enterprise in Potsdam next year.

8.Sony Sponsorship

With the help of our training Technical Coordinator, Karol Cioma from BBC Wales , I approached Sony to be a longer-term sponsor. They have confirmed to Reimar and Boris that they will continue sponsorship of Circom Regional 2.000. I will give them regular reports of the benefits they receive for their investment. It will be important for Sony to receive due credit on our website, "Circom Report", training literature and videos, and at the conference next year.

Digital service by EbS and contact persons

EbS's operations have migrated from analogue to digital technology- the reception details are:

- **Satellite EUTELSAT HOT BIRD;**
- **Orbital position : 13° East**
- **Receive frequency : 12,47550 GHz**
- **Polarisation : horizontal**
- **Footprint : Widebeam**
- **Symbol rate : 27,500 Mbauds.**
- **FEC : 3 / 4- Decod**

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An up-to-date version of the EbS weekly programme, plus background



Assistant producer Lydia Zelovic and producer Dan Reed with TV star Samantha Janus (center) at the "Nombre d' or" award ceremony

Britains' Channel Four wins three prizes at Nombre d' Or

Three of the six awards at this year's Widescreen Festival "Nombre d' Or" in Amsterdam, Sept. 10-14, were won by Britain's Channel Four. Top prize "Golden Rembrandt" went to Dan Reed for his documentary "The Valley" produced by UK's leading independent Mentor Barraclough Carey. It's the story of villagers trapped in the burning Drenica Valley in Kosovo during the recent crisis in the area.

The Silver Rembrandt went to Phil Agland's doc series "Shanghai Vice" also from Channel Four. The same channel was awarded the Best Art Direction for "Queer as Folk". The prize went to director Claire Kenny. Special Jury Prize was won by South Africa's Rob Harrison - White for "Mountain Rivals". Well known film maker Peter Greenaway picked up the

Best Director prize for his opera production "Rosa, a horse drama" made for Holland's NPS.

Best photography prize went to David Odd for "Great expectations" (BBC) a new adaptation of Dicken's classic. The IBC Special Award recipient was Wim Wender's new documentary feature "Buena Vista Social Club"

information, is available on the EbS website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/ebs/index.html>".

With the participation of nine networks from nine countries

The "Balcan TV Magazine" is the first main co-production in the Balcan countries. It started at the end of 1994 with the initiative of MKRTV (FYROM) and participation of six altogether national Balcan TV stations at the first meeting. Each edition of the magazine has another topic. Each station offers a 5 minute report and during

the meeting of representatives (usually the heads of international relations) of up to nine - participating stations/countries an edited version is produced lasting from 45-60 minutes. This program is broadcast by all stations involved, terrestrially or by satellite, and since 1998 by EbS, the European Union Broadcast Satellite.

The 5minute reports are on BETA SP accompanied by the text in the original language and a translation in English.

- In 1997 the same team started a new co-production under the title Balcan - Video Clip - Magazine. This program promotes video clips of hit songs enhancing each country's best or new and aspiring talent.
- In 1998 there was a new addition, the Balcan Sports Magazine, which is an ambitious plan that besides this production will involve all the sports departments of the public TV stations of the Balcans, who will exchange programs, offer technical facilities and negotiate better rates for escalating high costs of sports events.

Participants

TV stations participating in the various Balcan coproductions represent : Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, Greece and FYRO Macedonia.

Contact

The first two co-ordinators of this Balcan consortium were Stalin Lozanovsky (MKRTV) and Rossinka Radoikova (BNT) . For 1998 and 1999 the chief co-ordinator is Lefty Kongalides, Head of Int'l Relations for ERT 3. His full address is 6 Angelaki, Thessaloniki 54621, Greece. Phone : (3031) 299611, fax : (3031) 299655, E-mail : ert3pl@compulink.gr. With the initiative of ERT 3 a Balcan Newsletter was launched last January. This is a monthly newsletter which deals

field, that might be of interest to the nine participating stations/countries. Of course, the main issues are the coproductions, cooperation, calendar of events and projects of the Balcan Radio & TV networks.

This newsletter, is expected that will futher facilitate the communication of the stations and people involved in the many aspects of the Balcan radio & TV cooperation.

What's the next step for this co-operation under the umbrella of the Balcan TV Magazine ? Here are some thoughts:

1. To broaden the number of the participating countries and stations to include the Black Sea countries Georgia and Ukraine.
2. To make the Balcan Newsletter more than useful, including news, new ideas, new technologies applied, exchange of ideas and much more.
3. To create new co-productions, like the Balcan TV Magazine, which will be dedicated to the

Heads of News Services of the Balcan stations. These are just a few ideas which can materialise in an easy way, with almost no cost, understanding that low budget projects are a necessity especially in the Balcan area.

More ideas might pop out any time but one has to be cautious to proceed not very fast, because there is always, the fear that other participants cannot follow. So one idea at a time is rather the best solution.

These are small scale projects and they are mostly materialised by the Int'l Relations / Affairs Departments while only more ambitious plans could be tackled by presidents and general directors.

But at least even on this level something is happening, friendships have been born, co-operation and co-productions are proceeding and even communication by a single phone call is now easier than ever, thanks to the Balcan TV Magazine co-operation and initiative. Closed doors have been opened and they are kept open. And this it is believed by all participants is a great contribution for mutual

Balcan cooperation aided by 5 year-old "Balcan TV Magazine"

with radio & TV stations and any other topic in the audiovisual

promotion of culture in the Balcans - a Balcan Cultura Magazine and a Financial Magazine.

understanding, collaboration & cooperation.

4. To promote the idea of producing documentaries on a common subject, that will involve two countries each time and will be of common interest for both countries.
5. To organise a meeting of the

Poland's TVP SA is Ethnic Festival grand prix winner

Whispers II

Poland's TVP S.A. station was the recipient of the Third International Ethnic TV Festival "U Siebie - At Home" grand prix. The Festival held in Krakow and Przemysl, October 6-9, had an international jury made up of Boleslaw Sulik, chairman (Poland), Jadwiga Glowka (Poland), Mirko Bogataj(Austria), Vladimir Spicer(Croatia), Rick Thompson(UK). The following prizes were awarded:

.... "You're the eyes of the world. You can't afford to blink" is the latest slogan by Sony Europe. The same company came up with another one "When you can't afford to come second, every second counts".... The "Wheel of Time" project celebrates the tenth anniversary since its inception.... An initial series of six 13-minute programs, devoted to the rediscovery of musical instruments which totally disappeared from the scene over previous centuries, will be the object of a co-production from the RTBF "The Wheel of Time", Tournesol Production in Paris and Euroregio....

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...Marc Tessier, Head of French public broadcaster France Television, revealed the company's restructure in order to position itself for the advent of digital terrestrial TV.... Demonstrations of true video on demand, data services on TV, high capacity internet connections via cable modem and all the hardware necessary to build the networks and manage these services : these were some of the highlights of the ECC '99

* Grand Prix "Roots" and the President's of TVP S.A. award worth 15.000 PLN for the film : "...Inscribed in the Star of David - the Cross" author : Grzegorz Linkowski TV Station : TVP S.A. - Program II, Poland

* 2nd Award "Roots" and the CIRCUM Regional award worth 13.000 PLN for the film : "I Had a Dream About Hana" author : Mikolaj Wawrzeniuk, Jerzy Leszczynski TV station : TVP S.A. Oddzial w Bialymstoku, Poland

* 3rd Award "Roots" and the Presidents' of the cities of Krakow and Przemysl award worth 12.000 PLN for the film : "One Year" author : Bretislav Rychlik TV station : Czech TV - Studio Brno, Czech Republic

* Special Commendation, funded by CIRCUM Regional, worth 2.500 PLN for the film : "Repeat Your

Name author : Nada Mehmedbasic TV Station : TV BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina

* Special Commendation, funded by CIRCUM Regional, worth 2.500 PLN for the film : ""Gypsy Vaediction" author : Timea Tatar TV Station : MTV Regional Studio Debrecen, Hungary

* Special Commendation, funder by CIRCUM Regional, worth 2.500 PLN for the film : "Hate Crime" author : John Samson TV Station : BBC Elstree, United Kingdom

The journalists, who participated in the television workshop, held during the Festival, gave the award "Roots" for the best TV program for minorities and the Regional Television TVP S.A. award worth 10.000 PLN to the program : "World on Four (the language in the Assembly)", authored by Elis Owen, Tomos Morgan (TV Station : S4C Wales).

convention, held in London, Oct. 18-20 According to a report in the Italian weekly "Panorama" RAI is selling of its transmitter sites, estimated to be worth of 1.7 billion , to Italian mobile phone operator Wind....

Circum Report

The "CIRCUM Report" is the new 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. Director of publications is Marie-Paule Urban, CR Deputy Secretary General (Strasbourg). Editor is Lefty Kongalides, member of the CR Executive Committee (Thessaloniki). The "CIRCUM Report" is planned and edited in ERT 3, Thessaloniki, Greece. Phone (3031) 299611-610 fax (3031) 299 655. E-mail : 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 CIRCUM Regional sponsors**

Strasbourg Seminar for management in the 21st century

"Management for the 21st Century" is the subject of a seminar to be held in Strasbourg, either in October or November 2000.

During the week-long seminar, aimed at senior chief editors or news managers (limited to just 15 persons) such issues as evaluation of journalists, improving and multiskilling, new patters for news and new technologies and knowing better the European Parliament are to be discussed thoroughly.

The seminar, proposed by Didier Desormeaux (France 3), will be in French and English.

Competition awards \$15.000 for excellence in journalism

The competition for the 1999 \$ 15,000 SAIS-Novartis Prize for Excellence in International Journalism is on its way. Launched in 1995, the annual SAIS-Novartis Prize recognizes the growing importance and impact of journalism in the international arena. It will be awarded next spring to a journalist or journalists whose work in 1999 has brought to public attention an issue of international significance. The prize is open to journalists of any nationality for work done in any language and in any medium. Books are not eligible.

David Hoffman, Moscow Bureau Chief of The Washington Post, won the 1998 SAIS -Novartis Prize for his ten reports on the legacy of former Soviet weapons sites in post-Communist Russia. In addition to the \$15,000 award, Certificates of Recognition for Excellence in International Journalism were awarded to nine other finalists : The Wall Street Journal's team of Michael Siconolfi, Anita Raghavan, Mitchell Pacelle, Michael R. Sesit, Steve Liesman, Andrew Higgins, David Wessel and Bob Davis was first runner-up for the four-part series "Markets under Siege", Hasan Mujtaba of Pakistan was the second runner up for "Among the Sand Dunes of the India-Pakistan Border", which was published in the South Asian magazine "Himal"

based in Nepal. The other seven finalists were Christopher L. Hedges of The New York Times (US) for his ten reports on Kosovo ; Yevgenia Albats for "Our Man in Tehran", published in "Novaya Gazeta" (Russia) ; Candida Pinto of SIC Television (Portugal) for "Surviving in Guinea-Bissau ;" Richard Read of "The Oregonian" (US) for "The French Fry Connection ;" David E. Kaplan of "U.S. News and World Report" (US) for "The Looting of Russia ;" Jeremy Bowen of BBC "News" (UK) for "Arafat's Authority ;" and Carla Power of "Newsweek" (US) for "In the Shadow of the Taliban". The entries must be postmarked on or before January 31, 2.000. E-mail: sais-novartis@mail.jhuwash.jhu.edu

Television and Film Forum in Prague

The 11th European Television and Film Forum will be held in Prague, Dec. 2-4. More than 350 high-ranking European media professionals are expected to attend this important event. Czech Television, the public broadcaster of the Czech Republic, is to be the host. Organised every year on behalf of its corporate members by the European institute for the media, the Forum has taken place since 1989 to enable professionals in and around the audio-visual media to exchange ideas, experiences and expectations. New director - general of the European Institute for the Media is professor Dr Jo Groebel.

"AIDS in the World" : Greek documentary series to be broadcast by Balkan public TV stations

The World Federation for Mental Health acts as consultant for the project

A world-wide project about AIDS cut deep into the burning problem and made quite an impact on the Greek public when broadcast by ET 3 while nowadays is on the programming schedule of public TV stations in the Balcans. The documentary series "AIDS in the World - After the Storm" (ten 45-minute episodes) required research and travel through Europe, Africa, Asia and America.

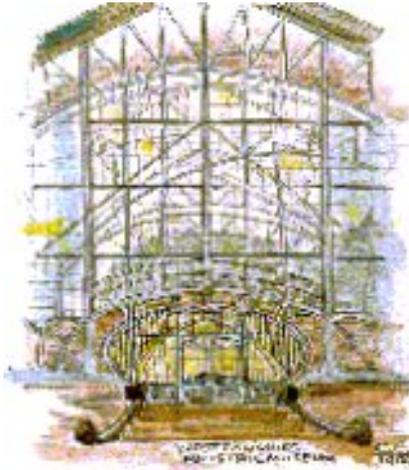
Even in the initial stages of the research work, the documentary series stimulated the interest of the World Federation for Mental Health, which agreed to serve as Scientific Consultant. Professor Marten de Vries, President of the Federation, contributed a lengthy and extremely informative interview to the series. The research project involved leading personalities from all over the world. The two eminent scientists who first isolated the HIV virus, French biologist Luc Montagnier from the Pasteur Institut and American researcher Robert Gallo from the University of Maryland, summarise their scientific knowledge and describe

the guidelines for the research of the future. Professor Rolf Krebs, President of the European Union of Pharmaceuticals Companies, explains the way in which pharmaceuticals act and agrees with the two scientists that a vaccine for AIDS is still a long way off.

Among the other participants in the series are Eric Van Praag, WHO officer responsible for AIDS in Europe, Steve Kraus, in charge of AIDS affairs for the UN in Asia, and Mike Tembo, who holds the corresponding post with responsibility for Africa.

In this world-wide project, for the first time since the disease made its appearance, the view of the Orthodox Church finds its expression through Orthodoxy's most authoritative voice, that of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomaios I.

The project was conducted by the "Alithia ("Truth" in Greek) Productions", presided by well known radio personality and journalist Kostas Tsarouhas.



Russian CR National Coordinator Sergei Erofeer has surprised CR members with his skillful drawings. The Dortmund meeting inspired him a lot (above).

New membership fees for CR members in 2000

New membership fees were announced during the CR European Board meeting in Potsdam, Nov. 27.

The calculation is based on three factors: a fixed amount of 200 Euros per member station, a fixed amount of 500 Euros per operational purposes and 200 Euros per one million inhabitants. 1999's membership fees amounted to 122.880 Euros plus 10.000 by the European Parliament while in 2.000 fees are expected to reach 149.380 Euros plus 10.000 by the European Parliament.

France 3 and Italy's RAI pay the most with 12.300 and 11.900 Euros, respectively. But Germany (with member stations BR, HR, MDR, NDR, R. Bremen, SWR, SFB, SR, WDR) pays totally 25.100 and the UK (BBC

Potsdam whispers

Out of the 38 CR national coordinators it seems that less than five

don't use an E-mail address. Precisely. And perhaps after one or two years no papers will circulate among CR members... All useful names - addresses of CR members are now included in a CD-ROM... Potsdam's Park Sans Souci attracted some CR colleagues during the recent European Board meeting, while others went to Berlin for sightseeing...

* * *

Just before Easter the Prix Circom jury members will gather in Klagenfurt (Austria) by the kind invitation of ORF through Gerhard Drexler... Internet will be used for the CR members' chatroom... OBN was elected an associate member of CR... Special prizes have been secured by CR's president Reimar Allerdt for Lufthansa fliers during the 2000 Potsdam CR conference. A code number will be given to all CR members to present when reserving seats...

* * *

A double celebration for Clare Morrow of Yorkshire Television in Leeds. First, she is the new UK ITV coordinator. Second, her daughter, Hannah, was enjoying her 18th birthday on the eve of Clare's first Board meeting in Potsdam. Congratulations!.... Tallina in Estonia has painful memories for David Lowen of UK ITV. He was attacked in the sheer by a thug with a baseball bat and needed ambulance and hospital care. David was helping Eesti TV with management training. Will your station host the judging for Prix Circom Regional in 2001, following Klagenfurt in April 2000? Advise David Lowen, chairman of Prix Circom Regional, as soon as possible...

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The pre-feasibility study for the multi-cultural and multi-lingual "Euro TV Region", a channel of the Regions of Europe, is in the hands of the 21 members of the working group. Pending the renewal of it's own budget the commission cannot confirm whether a further bid for proposals will be launched in the year 2000 or later... A day in Berlin is scheduled for the end of the 2000 CR conference in Potsdam... ERT 3 has confirmed the decision to sponsor the May 30 "happy hour" providing Ouzo 12, feta cheese, olives etc. and bouzouki music. Spain seems a potential sponsor for one of the two other "happy hours"... Why did the Board of Circom Regional go to church? Not to worship but to hear an organ recital while visiting Potsdam in November...

and ITV) 11.900 Euros, respectively. Twenty stations are to pay more according to the 2.000 list, while 41 will remain in the same fee scale as before.

Five categories proposed for the 2000 Prix Circom

Five categories were proposed by the Executive Committee for the Prix CIRCOM Regional 2000. The categories are: a) Regional Documentary, b) Regional Newsmagazine, c) Cross-Border, d) Europe Matters, e) New Technologies. The two new categories are "Regional News Magazine" and "New Technologies". In addition there is the possibility of two more categories, about the "environment" and "Judges award for Overall Contribution to European Regional Television". Call for entries will be in January through a special edition of the CIRCOM Report.

Information Center needs video films.

A presentation of the different regions of Europe is one of the tasks of the Information Center Europe, an institution of the city of Cologne and Regio Rheinland (a cooperation of different companies and institutions of this area), funded by the European Commission in Germany. The Center would like to have films, brochures, books and lectures to present the various regions. They plan to inform viewers through special TV programs. As Dr Mostafa Danesch, author and journalist, claims, "These TV features should help viewers to discover and discuss common ground and make them think about how to resolve problems of their region." For a complete list of video films in need interested stations should contact Danesch (Phone/Fax 0049-221519787).

In 1998 the average viewer in Europe spent over three hours a day watching televisionBBC Worldwide, the BBC's commercial arm, has announced a new Internet access service called freebeeb.net, in partnership with Scottish Telecom, which owns the Demon Internet company....Four major US networks for children have now European operations : Disney, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network and Fox Kids....

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Game Network, the first pan-European digital television channel dedicated to videogames and int'l multimedia entertainment, launched on Eutelsat....The 24th consortium meeting for the Balcan TV Magazine will be held Dec 10-12, in Kishinau, Moldova.... Both French digital satellite platforms have announced plans to provide an e-mail service to their subscribers via the digital decoder which would display on the TV screen....

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In 1999 more than seven million households in Europe alone are already receiving digital television services. With a market in excess of 167 million households there is potential for explosive growth in the 21st century....At the beginning of 2.000, ZDF will launch Digitext, an enhanced teletext for set -top-box owners....In the UK, the BBC plans to launch a free-to-air children's channel....

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The first public demonstration of the EU-sponsored iT Ti (interactive Terrestrial Television integration) system, which uses the DVB - T standard with an over-the-air path to offer Web access and other forms of interactive TV, was made during the IBC 99 exhibition in Amsterdam.... Thanks to a simulcasting agreement worked out by Deutsche Telecom and

terrestrial TV channels (RAI Uno, RAI Due, RAI Tre) which are transmitted via the Eutelsat Hot Bird satellites in DVB mode....

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Management reports and Newsletters from Financial Times Media include "The European TV industry in the 21st century", a new informative guide on the latest predictions and forecasts in the European TV industry. The price is £ 495 or £ 713....German public broadcaster ARD wants to offer within its digital package several interactive games to give digital homes an advantage over conventional analogue viewers, making digital television more attractive....The Internet is likely to be the stage for Europe's next great sports media boom....

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Between 1989 and 1997 the number of nationwide channels in Europe tripled to 250, two thirds of which are privately owned....TCM, a classic movie channel from Ted Turner, is to start this month as a dedicated channel for the French market with 600 films a year- either in French or the original language.... According to latest surveys : Iceland has 94.000 TV households, Luxembourg has 160.000 and FYRO Macedonia 380.000....

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A ministry for Press, Television,Radio,Broadcasting and Mass Communications was created last July in Russia when President Yeltsin merged the State Committee on the Press and Information with the Federal Television & Radio Service....Sony Corp., Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Philips Electronics NV and Nokia Group plan to standardise the format for interactive digital broadcasting in Europe, challenging moves for a standard format based on Microsoft Corp. technology, initiated by Japan and

the Internet....BET International's pending distribution in Europe : Belgium, Bulgaria, Finlandia, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Spain....

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TV 3 is Switzerland's first private channel....BBC's 24 hour entertainment channel, BBC Prime, is to be carried on German platform Premiere world.... BBC Worldwide has launched a range of books, videos and magazines from Hit's children's pre-school property, "Bob the builder"....

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US broadcast design company, 3 Ring Circus, in alliance with int'l ad agency TBWA is to offer advertising and branding services to Greece, Turkey and the Middle East....Discovery's "Animal Planet" has now 8.400.000 subscribers in Europe (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Estonia, Romania)....Messages of Presidents or Prime Ministers of the Balcan countries will be on the special last edition of this year's Balcan TV Magazine....

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UK based independent, Jeremy Isaacs Productions, has created a lavish new ten-hour series "Millennium A Thousand Years Of History" for CNN with BBC2. The series chronicles the last thousand years of world history.... Spain will introduce its digital terrestrial services in November. It will increase tenfold the number of TV channels available. The arrival of DTT will require the replacement of every television set (currently 11.7 million TV households) and the addition of digital decoders....FETV, Channel 5 in Panama, has produced a one hour program about the Panama Canal - now celebrating 100 years since its

the 15 German media authorities, commercial television channels such as RTL and sat 1 will, against earlier expectations, be granted digital capacity on German cable networks, parallel to analogue distribution.... Italian public broadcaster RAI has decided to abandon the obsolete scrambling system Discret in favour of the more advanced Canal + / Bertelsmann Seca system for the three

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the US....International television company, CSI, has acquired the exclusive television rights for English home matches during the UEFA Cup and rights to the European Pro Beach Soccer League....

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The BBC estimates that digital TV could reach as many as three - quarters of UK TV households by 2.000....America Inline has announced plans to launch a television channel called AOL-TV. The service would offer e-mail and chat room services which would be screened on television and not over

construction....

