

Dear Colleagues,

While the 2005 Circom Briefing was our first and was essentially aimed at making Circom Regional better known in “Brussels”, the 2006 Circom Briefing will be aimed at achieving concrete results for projects, cooperation and funding, not just for Circom Regional as a whole but also for individual members.

Unlike last year, we will organise a preparatory session which will be open only to members of Circom Regional so that we can agree on a common approach to the various themes of the Circom Briefing before meeting with representatives of the European institutions (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at 14:30).

We will have a high-powered opening session looking at today’s most pressing world problem: the relationship between the Muslim world and the “West”. Keynote speakers and participants in a round table discussion will be

- Mr. Michel Delebarre, President of the Committee of the Regions
- Mr. Xavier Solana, the EU’s High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy is enquired

This opening session will set the scene for brainstorming and concrete discussions on how to cooperate with the European institutions.

For instance, Tuesday afternoon we will be at the European Parliament. Do invite your local Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to this session. This promises to become a lively session. We will have the opportunity of showcasing Circom Regional to MEPs and executives from the various European institutions. If you have a great example of how you report EU issues to your audience, send us a tape (contact is Heike Stiegler).

As promised, the 2006 Circom Briefing will focus on short-term results. We will organise specific taskforce meetings to look at opportunities

- Circom Training
- technology issues such as future developments in digital television and a European audio-visual search engine
- engaging with regional TV stations in other countries, first of all China

In addition, we will organise a special opportunity to watch “the Best of Prix Circom” beyond the winners and demonstrate the qualities of productions by Europe’s public regional TV stations to European Union politicians and officials. There are DVD’s provide with this examples to take home to your homestation.

The Circom Briefing will be held from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. We need to show a strong presence vis-à-vis the European institutions so as to push for our ideas.

At this stage, the most urgent thing is to book the hotel:

The SOFITEL BRUSSELS EUROPE

[http://www.sofitel.com/sofitel/fichehotel/gb/sof/5282/fiche\\_hotel.shtml](http://www.sofitel.com/sofitel/fichehotel/gb/sof/5282/fiche_hotel.shtml)

We have the special rate of 139 € per night, not including breakfast (in stead of 450 € per night). The hotel is brand new and in walking distance of the Committee of the Regions. Please email Karen at the reservation desk of the Sofitel Brussels Europe hotel

email address : Karen [<H5282-RE@accor.com>](mailto:H5282-RE@accor.com)

Do mention

- reference: Circom Briefing 2006
- name:
- reservation dates: (mostly 9-12 October 2006 or give other extended dates)
- credit card number (as guarantee but will not be charged)

For more details and registration, contact

Heike Stiegler on +49 911 6550 314 and [Heike.Stiegler@brnet.de](mailto:Heike.Stiegler@brnet.de),  
or Peter Kraewinkels on +32 2 2352400 and [peter.kraewinkels@circom-regional.org](mailto:peter.kraewinkels@circom-regional.org).

Looking forward to seeing you in Brussels !

Kind regards,



Anita Bhalla

President of Circom regional

Head of Political and Community Affairs - English Regions  
BBC Birmingham  
The Mailbox  
Birmingham  
B1 1RF

Tel:(00 44) 0121 567 6270

Fax: (00 44) 0121 567 6303

Mobile: 07850 735734

Email: [anita.bhalla@bbc.co.uk](mailto:anita.bhalla@bbc.co.uk)