



September 2002

EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

September highlights:

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- EBLIDA lobbying for you!, p.2
- Parliament Resolution on lifelong learning, p. 1
- eContent workprogramme 2003-2004, p. 1
- Commission conference on Data Protection, p. 4
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- Mutual recognition of regulated professions, p. 6
- Commission and Parliament views on EU information strategy, p. 8

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Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Commission report on implementation of PLR published

On 16 September, the European Commission released its report on implementation of the Public Lending Right (PLR) provisions under the directive on Rental and Lending Right and Certain Related Rights, which was to be implemented by 1 July 1994. The report itself should have been published in 1997.

The directive requires that the authors of books, films and any other copyright works and (at member states' discretion) other right holders, either have the right to authorise or refuse

lending of their works by institutions such as public libraries, or that they be remunerated for such public lending. Harmonisation of the PLR is important for the Internal Market because the lending activities of public institutions can have a significant effect on the commercial rental market, particularly for music and films. The Commission considers that if in practice most lending establishments are exempt, there is a risk that the PLR is deprived of adequate effect. Belgium has not yet adopted legal measures to transpose certain

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Parliament resolution on the prospects for lifelong learning in the EU

On 5 September, Parliament adopted the report by MEP van Brempt (A5-0224/2002) on the Commission's initiative on Lifelong Learning. Parliament calls for measures to provide incentives and opportunities specifically designed for socially disadvantaged and other excluded

group and on further training establishments to co-operate in the supply of further training in member states. Parliament regrets that two years after the Lisbon European Council, little progress had been made towards developing clear and adequately funded strategies for promoting lifelong learning.

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Follow-up to the eContent workprogramme 2003-2004

On 12 September, a meeting took place in Luxembourg to shape up the new workprogramme for the eContent programme for its final two years of operation. Illustrations, interviews of participants and an overall presentation are available from

<http://www.content-village.org/articles.asp?id=171>.

The meeting on 2 October will focus on scope and number of participants to modify the revised draft more in detail.

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Lobbying for archives and libraries

Digital Rights Management Systems

The European legislative framework for copyright was put into place in May 2001 with the adoption of the EU copyright Directive. Now the European Commission is turning its attention to the next pillar: the management of copyright. Digital Rights Management Systems (DRMS) are technologies that describe and identify digital content protected by intellectual property rights.

Within this context, DG Information Society initiated a discussion to encourage the different stakeholders to tackle outstanding DRM issues together and to find common ground. EBLIDA is an active partner in the four working groups focussing on the user, technology, rightowner and collecting society perspectives.

It is essential that the library view is heard at this crucial stage in the development of early generation DRMS. Harald von Hielmcrone, the

Danish representative on the EBLIDA copyright expert group, attended the working group on technology issues in Brussels on 2 October 2002. The issues for libraries include how will DRMS safeguard the hard-won public interest exceptions especially when resources are increasingly global and exceptions can differ from country to country, what is the relationship between DRMS and licences and how will a DRM enable access to material when it falls outside the term of copyright protection. Should there be a public access key or a legal deposit and key recovery requirement? These are just some of the questions.

EBLIDA is planning an expert briefing on DRMS issues in early 2003 – watch this space! European Commission homepage on DRMS: http://www.europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/multi/digital_rights/index_en.htm

PULMAN steams ahead!

www.pulmanweb.org

EBLIDA presented PULMAN at the IFLA Public Library Section meeting in Glasgow August 2002 and at the European public library conference in Copenhagen 3-4 October 2002, organised by the Danish National Library Authority during the Danish Presidency of the EU.

The PULMAN network consists of 36 European countries. Take a look at the PULMAN website for

- comprehensive country reports;
- PULMAN guidelines, written by experts

EBLIDA Executive Committee meet

The next meeting of the EBLIDA Executive Committee will take place in Vienna on 25 October 2002. A special topic of the meeting will be EBLIDA finances and approval of the budget estimate for 2003, as agreed at the Council meeting in May 2002.

on current key social policy, management and technical issues;

- database of education resources, a resource for people working in the public library, museum and archive sectors. It acts as a gateway to courses of study offered via distance-education means and has been compiled and endorsed by the PULMAN consortium in accordance with agreed determinants and criteria. IFLA presentation: www.eblida.org/eblida/meetings/events/ifla02_pulman.ppt

European Public Libraries – in development, Copenhagen
<http://www.bs.dk/nuple>.



PULMAN
PUBLIC LIBRARIES MOBILISING ADVANCED NETWORKS

The agenda and minutes of Executive Committee meetings are at:

http://www.eblida.org/eblida/meetings/events.htm#executive_meetings. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Secretariat!

Audiovisual

Contribution to the Convention on article 151 and audiovisual services

On 12 September, MEP Duhamel, member of the Convention, presented to the Convention, a contribution on public service broadcasting. The document states that the legitimacy of the audiovisual public service and of those policies aimed at maintaining pluralism of the media. These could be strengthened by including freedom of expression and pluralism among the fundamental values set out in the text of the future treaties as well as by guaranteeing subsidiarity in the audiovisual field. The contribution also suggests that Article 151

should be more devoted to the audiovisual and culture sector, in particular Article 151(4) which should be strengthened to affirm that some non-commercial values deserve own guarantees to promote innovation and creation in the cultural field.

Furthermore, article 151 should specify that freedom of expression and pluralism can benefit from guarantees every time mergers in the media sector are envisaged. The contribution is available from <http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/02/cv00/00264en2.pdf>.

For further information visit
<http://european-convention.eu.int/>
<http://europa.eu.int/futurum/>

EU action plan for the introduction of digital television in Europe

On 26 September, Parliament adopted a resolution calling for the introduction of digital TV in Europe. Parliament requests the European Council to adopt by the end of this year, an EU action plan. Parliament is convinced that digital broadcasting is an essential tool to guarantee access of all European citizens to the services of the information society.

Parliament urges member states and the Commission to outline the measures they intend to take in

order to encourage the use of an open interoperable European standard for digital TV. In addition, it calls on the Commission to present a clear timetable for the steps it intends to take.

The resolution follows on from an oral question on Multimedia Home Platform (MHP) by MEP Rocard, Chair of the Committee on Culture. MHP is a suitable standard for digital TV - favoured by ETSI and Bertelsmann Foundation amongst others.

Procedure terminated

Results of selected projects under the Media Plus programme available

Results of selected projects under the Media Plus programme were published on 10 and 11 September. Visit europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/results/fest67-01-2.pdf (Call for proposals no 67/01 (deadline 2) - promotion and market access in

connection with audiovisual festivals). europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/results/r21-01.pdf (Call for proposals no 21/01 - deadline 15 March 2002). Media Plus Programme online: europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/media/index_en.html.

...More about Media Plus? Contact Mr Jacques Delmoly, European Commission, Fax: +32 2 299 92 14

Consumer Protection

Parliament report on draft directive for free judicial proceedings adopted

*Consultation
procedure*

(first reading)

Parliament adopted on 25 September the report by MEP Santini (A5-0312/2002) amending a draft directive which aims at establishing common minimum standards for access to justice in cross-border disputes relating to legal aid and other financial aspects of civil proceedings. It will not cover Denmark, Ireland and UK, but these countries may decide to opt in.

The report calls on the Commission to broaden the scope of the proposed directive so that it would apply not only to cross-border disputes but also to internal disputes. According to the report, provisions regarding access to justice

should be applied without distinction to EU citizens and to third-country nationals residing in a member state. The committee also wanted to clarify what legal aid might consist of, and called for it to be granted not only in respect of judicial proceedings but also in respect of extra-judicial procedures such as alternative methods of resolving disputes.

Parliament's opinion however is not binding as work involved is shared between the Commission and the Council. The proposed directive is awaiting final decision by the Council, which is expected on 28 November 2002.

Commission conference on data protection

The European Commission held on 30 September and 1 October, a conference on data protection in the EU to mark the completion of the consultation process launched for the preparation of its report on the utility of the directive.

Divergences in data protection legislation and the way it is applied in the member states create problems for the free movement of data. Most member states' laws transposing the directive entered into force in 2000 or 2001. Luxembourg's new law (August 2002) will not enter into force until 2003 and the legislative process is not yet finished in France and Ireland.

Themes dealt with included the need to provide:

- standards of data protection, taking into account technological developments;
- free movement of personal data for legitimate uses;
- principles of "better regulation";
- volume of requests addressed to

companies for gaining access to personal data in their possession;

- degree of effectiveness of the current rules relating to the transfer of personal data with third countries.

The Commission has yet to complete its analysis of the contributions made to the present review. Contributions include those of the European Publishers Council, the European Association of Directory and Database Publishers and the European Federation of Journalists. Visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/dataprot/lawreport/index.htm.

The report will foresee the simplification of:

- notification requirements;
- reduction of divergences in member states practices;
- more effort to promote privacy enhancing technologies;
- more flexible arrangements for the transfer of personal data to third countries;
- promotion of self-regulatory approaches and Codes of Conduct.

Co-operation with Third Countries

Publication of *acquis communautaire* formally signed

On 9 September, the Official Publications Office of the European Communities (http://publications.eu.int/general/en/index_en.htm) formally signed the contracts for the publication of the *acquis communautaire* in the languages of those countries whose membership of the EU is being prepared for 2004. By then, the Publications Office will publish and

distribute all EU legislation in Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Slovakian, Slovenian and Czech.

The *acquis communautaire* will be published in a special edition of the Official Journal and in Eur-lex, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

...In preparation for enlargement"

EU/Chile scientific and technological co-operation agreement signed

The EU and Chile signed on 23 September, a scientific and technological co-operation agreement to allow scientists take part in the other side's research programmes and joint research projects. It also provides for visits and exchanges of technical experts, joint conferences and workshops, scientific networks and training, and the exchange and sharing of facilities and equipment.

Apart from the Chile-based European Southern Observatory (ESO), this kind of co-operation with Chile has until now

been financed through the development fund. Under the new agreement Chile becomes a partner under the FP6 programme (2002-2006).

The Commission funded 17 research projects totalling €8 million in which Chile is involved under FP4 and 16 projects totalling €12 million under FP5. Visit:

europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/countries/chili/cl-doc1.pdf;
<http://www.cordis.lu/inco2/>.

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Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Commission report on implementation of Public Lending Rights published

Continued from Page 1

provisions of the Directive. In France, Greece and Luxembourg, no remuneration at all is paid to right holders. In Denmark, Sweden and Finland, there are concerns that the PLR may be applied in a discriminatory way, granted only for national or resident authors (Sweden) or for items published in the national language (Denmark, Finland). Spain, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Finland and

the UK, have exempted certain, and in some cases many, lending establishments.

The Commission will take into account the use of new technologies in libraries and the possible future development of online lending in determining its future policy on public lending.

europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/intprop/docs/index.htm#reports.

Education

Parliament resolution on lifelong learning in the EU

Continued from Page 1

*Parliament
opinion or
resolution*

*Procedure
terminated*

Public authorities are called upon to develop programmes to facilitate access to and improve the quality of training by developing local learning centres, based in schools and other locations. Public authorities and the Commission should devise common guidelines for skills plans and validation systems that can be used to facilitate mutual recognition of certificates, diplomas and degrees.

Member States are urged to take measures to promote the identification, assessment and recognition of non-formal and informal learning

and to assist the Commission to draw up an inventory of national practices in this area and a framework for the exchange of experience. In addition, they are urged to agree on a specific target for annual expenditure on lifelong learning and to provide fiscal and other incentives to encourage investment in lifelong learning by employers and individual citizens.

The Commission on its part, is called on to ensure that each member state takes the legal steps necessary to offer and provide access to lifelong learning for all employees or jobseekers.

Recognition of academic qualifications in the EU

In a motion for a resolution on the recognition of academic qualifications in the EU by MEP Hernandez Mollar, Parliament calls for the automatic recognition of the academic qualifications issued by all member states to facilitate the free movement of members of the liberal professions throughout the Union. Parliament also calls on the member states to abolish the existing 'protectionist'

legislation currently operated in validating qualifications.

Furthermore, Parliament recommends the establishment of an advisory body at Community level to deal with all such special circumstances as may arise to hinder the free movement of members of the liberal professions throughout the EU.

Mutual recognition of the regulated professions to ensure free movement

*Co decision
procedure*

*Council and
Parliament to
reach
agreement*

The Commission proposal (COM (2002) 0119) aims at simplifying the rules relating to the recognition of professional qualifications. The proposed directive seeks to consolidate the current system for the recognition of professional qualifications in a single legal text (the proposed Directive would replace fifteen existing Directives to guarantee the quality of services and improve the operation and management of the current system, which is seen as too complex. The target sector is education and human resources development.

European professional associations would be able to establish common platforms for

the recognition of professional qualifications. Criteria for submitting proposals of this kind is however not specified. With regard to the scope of the directive, its provisions do not extend to third country nationals who have undertaken studies in an EU Member State.

The Council common position is expected on 14 November. Parliament will probably vote in plenary (first reading) on 13 January 2003. The full text of the proposal (OJ no 2002/C181E of 30 July 2002, p. 183) is available at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>

Parliament report on universities and higher education approved

Procedure terminated

On 5 September, Parliament adopted the resolution by MEP Gutierrez Cortines (A5-0183/2002) on higher education.

Parliament calls on the Commission, member states and social players to incorporate universities and higher education centres in lifelong learning, refresher training and technology transfer programmes and to promote specific university programmes with the aim of

providing professional skills.

Furthermore, it calls on the Commission to draw up a green paper on a future European higher education area.

As regards funding, the resolution points out that member states and regions with higher education responsibilities must ensure that public universities have the funding required to enable them to perform their teaching and research roles to a sufficiently high standard.

Parliament report on decision amending Socrates adopted

On 3 September, Parliament passed a resolution adopting the report by MEP Rocard (A5-0268/2002) on a decision the second phase of the Socrates programme (Decision 253/2000/EC). The proposed decision seeks to allow flexibility in the requirement for co financing.

According to the report, the amendment proposed is purely technical. It has no implications for Commission staffing or for the

Community budget; nor does it signal a change in the Commission's grant awarding policy or a move away from the principle that Community grants should always involve co financing.

The proposed decision is now awaiting Council common position (qualified majority). If Parliament makes any amendments a second reading before Parliament is required.

*Co decision procedure
First reading*

European Erasmus Week launched

The launch of the European Erasmus Week will take place in the 30 Erasmus countries (15 member states, 3 EEA countries and 12 candidate countries) from 18 to 25 October. The main event will take place in Brussels. Students' associations, Socrates National Agencies and academic networks have been invited to take part and ensure coverage of the event at national and local level. During the Week the Erasmus Student Charter will be launched, a 'passport' which outlines the

entitlements of Erasmus students e.g. free tuition, full recognition of studies abroad.

Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, has suggested to the Danish Presidency that the 30 Erasmus ambassadors (students) meet the Heads of States and Government at the European Council due to take place in Brussels during the Week. Visit europa.eu.int/comm/education/erasmus/million_en.html

European Day of Languages 2002

The Council of Europe declared a European Day of Languages to be celebrated on 26 September each year. A common theme is proposed each year to serve as a guideline. The theme for 2002 was Lifelong language

learning', which is in line with the objectives of European Year of Languages. Visit http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Cooperation/education/Languages/.



EU Information Policy

Commission and Parliament exchange of views on information strategy

EP consultation

The new information strategy for the EU (see Hot News July-August, p. 7) was welcomed on 10 September at an exchange of views between Mr Vitorino, Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, and Mr Vidal-Quadras Roca, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

Commissioner Vitorino outlined the strategies and specific lines of action considered by the Commission in respect of the EU's information policy, namely improving co-ordination among EU institutions themselves and creating partnership between EU institutions and

member states. Mr Vidal-Quadras and the rapporteur, Mr Bayona de Perogordo, appointed by the committee to draw up the report warned about the need to resolve the gap between EU's rhetoric and the EU's reality. MEPs Andreasen and Imbeni stressed the need to provide additional budget resources from 2003 onwards and also the importance of respecting cultural and linguistic diversity in order to reach target groups.

Overall, Parliament intends to play an active role in improving the information provided for European citizens.

Rights on access to information not respected

Consultation

Parliament adopted on 26 September, a non-binding resolution by MEP Wyn (A5-0267/2002) on the activities of the European Ombudsman, Mr Jacob Söderman during the year 2001. The Ombudsman and Parliament both state that the European institutions often violate citizens' rights on access to information, sometimes unjustifiably, by referring to rules on data protection.

The right to access documents from the European institutions is a fundamental right. Furthermore, MEPs are disappointed that the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour agreed by the EU is not always respected and calls on the Commission to propose new

administrative rules of procedure which would bind the European institutions.

Parliament welcomes the Ombudsman's efficient work, the quality of his website, and his work with the candidate countries. The House calls on the Commission to stop blocking a major reform of the Ombudsman's statute.

The Commission and member states should no longer have the option to prevent officials from being called to give information by the Ombudsman. Furthermore, access to documents should no longer be restricted from the Parliament or the Ombudsman.

Commission online survey on its press room launched

The Commission launched a survey on 10 September, to evaluate its Internet site 'Virtual Press Room'. The survey is primarily aimed at professionals from the press and the media but also at any other users familiar with these services. It focuses on the media,

namely the pressroom of the European Commission, the press releases database (RAPID), the Audiovisual Library and "Europe by Satellite" TV channel. Visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/press_room/survey/index_en.htm.

EU Research and Development

Council Decisions on FP6 specific programmes adopted

The Competitiveness Council (Internal Market, Industry and Research) adopted on 30 September, the decisions establishing the five specific programmes for research under FP6 (2002-2006). The programme 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' was adopted by qualified majority with the Italian delegation voting against.

The adoption of the specific programmes will contribute to the timely implementation of the new framework programme, as requested by the European Council.

The overall budget provided for under FP6 amounts to € 17 500 million, of which € 16 270 million are for the EC programme.

It is stipulated that no funding will go to research aimed at human reproductive cloning, modification of the genetic heritage of human beings or the creation of human embryos solely for the purpose of research or stem cell procurement. In addition, further elaboration on ethical issues is provided for in a statement for the Council minutes.

Five specific programmes on:

- Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area (EC)
- Structuring the European Research Area (EC)
- Joint Research Centre activities (EC)
- Nuclear energy (Euratom)
- Joint Research Centre activities (Euratom)

EU Descartes Prize finalists made public

The finalists for the EU Prize for Scientific excellence were revealed on 24 September. The Descartes Prize - now in its third year - aims at rewarding scientific projects that address the concerns of citizens and contribute to Europe's competitiveness.

The prize-giving ceremony will take place in Munich at the European

Patent Office, on 5 December 2002, following the selection of winners by the Grand Jury, composed of nine eminent figures reflecting the wide spectrum of scientific disciplines and excellence.

The Descartes Prize is a part of the DG Research - Improving the Human Research Potential programme (1998-2002),
<http://www.cordis.lu/improving/home.html>.

Visit the Descartes Prize website at

<http://www.cordis.lu/descartes>

Internal Market

Simplification and improvement of regulatory environment

Competitiveness ministers debated on 30 September, the implementation of the Commission's action plan to simplify and improve the regulatory environment. The Council called upon the Commission to ask member states and interested parties for areas of law where the need for simplification is greatest. The Commission should also propose a programme for simplification before the end of the year, paying attention to areas that can bring about tangible benefits to citizens, cost

reductions and time-saving for enterprises and public authorities. The Commission was also invited to give a progress report to the Council (Competitiveness) on 14 and 15 November 2002 and to report in due time on instruments for monitoring progress and identification of areas for simplification. Member states on their part were asked to ensure that Community directives are transposed into their national legislation correctly and within the set deadlines.

Community statistical programme 2003-2007

Co decision procedure

Second reading

On 30 September, the Competitiveness Council adopted without debate, a common position on the draft Decision on the Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007. The text will be forwarded to the European Parliament for a second reading under the co-decision procedure.

Regulation (EC) 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on community statistics requires the adoption of a Community statistical programme which defines the approaches, the main fields and the objectives

constituting the framework for the production of all Community statistics. The current Community statistical programme was established by Decision 1996/126/EC for the years 1998 to 2002.

According to the Council, the modifications introduced in its common position are fully in line with the objectives of the Commission proposal and constitute a good basis for enabling the programme to be implemented from 2003.

Commission working document on Community patent jurisdiction adopted

Information document

EP consultation

On 30 August, the European Commission adopted a working document which aims at facilitating discussions in the Council to reach an overall political agreement on the main elements of the Community patent system. The working document is also being forwarded to the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice since both will be consulted in due course on any Commission proposal.

The working document contains an annex, which provides detailed suggestions on the jurisdictional arrangements: conferral of jurisdiction on the Court of Justice, establishment of a judicial panel and changes to the Statute of the Court of Justice relating to the Court of First Instance. The working document can be consulted at:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/wdc/2002/com2002_0480en01.pdf

Commission report on barriers to the provision of services in the internal market

The Competitiveness Council took note of the Commission report on the state of the internal market in services and agreed to re-examine the issues raised at a forthcoming session with a view to adopting conclusions on the follow-up to the report.

The Report completes the first stage of the

Commission's two-stage strategy for services launched in December 2000. It draws up an inventory of barriers arising from differing national, regional and local regulations that continue to inhibit the provision of services. Solutions to these problems will be proposed as part of the second stage of the strategy for services, to be launched by the Commission in 2003.

FIN-NET to be extended to candidate countries

The European Commission held a seminar on 17 and 18 September in Brussels to prepare for the extension of the existing FIN-NET complaint network to future member states.

The seminar provided a chance for the accession countries to further inform the Commission about their own existing schemes. The objective was to promote best practice in the creation and management of out-of-court redress schemes in the accession countries and to include them in FIN-NET after enlargement.

The Commission has published a guide to make FIN-NET better known to European citizens, available online at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/finances/consumer/ or by request from Europe Direct (00800 67891011). Standardised information on all FIN-NET member schemes http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/finances/consumer/intro.htm or the multilingual FIN-NET database, <http://finnet.jrc.it/>.

Commission report on Community law available

The Commission adopted on 28 June 2002 the nineteenth report on Monitoring the Application of Community Law (COM (2002) 324 final). The report tells actions taken by the Commission in monitoring the application of Community law in the year 2001. It also illustrates the evolving infringement proceedings initiated or

managed by the Commission in 2001 under Article 226 of the Treaty by emphasising the policy of the Commission in this matter, detailed by sector. It is available from:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/droit_com/index_en.htm - [infringements.](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/)

Eur-Lex, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

Internet

Judicial co-operation to approximate laws against attacks on information systems

The Commission proposal (19 April 2002) aims at ensuring judicial co-operation in criminal offences related to attacks against information systems, e.g. "stand alone" personal digital organisers and computers, mobile phones, intranets, extranets, networks servers and other Internet infrastructures. The proposal creates a greater degree of approximation by treating as a criminal offence any intentional access without right to information systems and is fully in line

with the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention.

Two amendments have been proposed: greater leniency for first hacking offences by minors and the establishment of an EU G8 network to be combined with a system of data protection. Parliament will give its vote in plenary on 21 October. The full text (COM (2002)0173) is available from <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/> (OJ no 2002/C 203E, 27.0802, p. 109).

European Policy approach on electronic network and security

On 12 September, the Parliamentary Committee on Citizens' freedoms and rights tabled on 12 September, the report by MEP Paciotti (A5-0311/2002) on network and information security (role of the public sector). It sets out a global strategy for electronic network security.

The Community legislative authorities have already taken action in three essential areas relating to network security: data protection, telecommunications policies and combating computer crime.

The communication attempts to bring these three aspects together into an integrated strategy providing for broad-based action ranging from measures to raise awareness among members of the public to specific measures e.g. standardisation and certification, free movement of encryption products, security in government use, international co-operation.

In its report, the Citizens committee supports the setting up of an IT security task force, which should be operational by mid-2003. The report is now awaiting vote in plenary, scheduled for 21 October 2002.

Who will run the .eu TLD Registry? Call for expressions of interest

Regulation (EC) no 733/2002 on the implementation of the .eu TLD (OJ no 2002/L 113/1 of 30 April 2002) provides the legal basis for the creation of the .eu registry. With the regulation adopted and once its implementation is completed, the .eu Registry will be able to begin operations. It is expected that the

registration of .eu domain names begin early in 2003.

A call for expressions of interest for its selection was published in the OJ no 2002/C 208, p. 6 on 3 September 2002, available from <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>. Deadline for applications is 25 October 2002.

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Who will run the .eu TLD Registry? Call for expressions of interest

Continued from Page 11

The contract between the Commission and the selected Registry will be signed, probably by the end of December 2002 or January 2003. An Information Day for those interested in running the registry was held on 20 September.

A selection of questions and answers from the

meeting will soon appear at:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/internet/eu_domain/openday/index_en.htm

Visit

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/internet/eu_domain/index_en.htm.

Social Policy

Parliament report on implementation of social agenda adopted

Parliament adopted on 4 September, a non-binding own-initiative resolution by MEP Smet (A5-0256/2002) on the scoreboard on the implementation of the Social Agenda. The report analyses the second social policy agenda scoreboard covering the 2002-2006 period.

According to the report, it is regrettable that there is no annex containing a list of actions planned in the various fields, together with

the deadlines envisaged and a summary of pending legislation. The scoreboard, in its current form, does not appear to accurately assess the progress that has been achieved or to identify a clear programme for the future. Amongst others, the report calls on the Commission to draw up a Green Paper on illiteracy and social exclusion, to pave the way for an action plan and the establishment of a European observatory for illiteracy at CEDEFOP.

Parliament report on action plan for skills and mobility tabled

The committee on Employment and social affairs adopted on 11 September, the report by MEP Bastos (A5-0313/2002) welcoming the new action plan, although it regretted the absence of a clear timetable for implementation.

The report underlines the strategic role that local authorities could play in helping to bring the world of work and education systems closer together. Although MEPs felt that reducing regional imbalances was a priority, they nevertheless supported measures seeking to encourage geographical mobility. MEPs underlined the need to simplify co-ordination by speeding up the revision of Regulation 1408/71.

The Commission was urged to enforce existing Community legislation on the mutual recognition of qualifications more rigorously. The points in the action plan which relate to 'the improvement of education and training systems' will be developed in conjunction with steps to create a European area of lifelong learning and with follow-up to the Commission report on the concrete future steps of education and training systems.

Under the Hughes procedure (procedure for co-operation between committees), the Culture committee has primary responsibility for comments on actions 1, 2, 3, 6, 18. The report will be voted on in plenary on 9 October 2002.

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