



October 2002

EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

October highlights:

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Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Commission decision on collective management and copyright licensing

On 16 November 2000, a number of collecting societies and IFPI, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry applied to the Commission for exemption in respect of a model reciprocal agreement between record producers' rights administration societies for the licensing of *Simulcasting* (simultaneous transmission by radio/TV stations via the Internet of sound recordings included in their broadcasts of radio and/or TV signals).

On 8 October, the Commission decided to cut red tape faced by

radio/TV stations that broadcast music using the simulcasting process. Simulcasting requires broadcasters to obtain international licenses from music right owners in each of the countries where their Internet transmission is accessible.

According to the parties, the reciprocal agreement is intended to operate for an experimental period after which its nature, scope and operation will be reviewed. The amended version of the agreement will expire on 31 December 2004.

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Information Society

IDA Conference on pan-European eGovernment services

The IDA conference on *pan-European eGovernment services for citizens and enterprises: the role of IDA*, held in Brussels on 19 and 20 September, focused on the needs of cross-border users of eGovernment services.

For citizens, these services include advice on living in another country; for enterprises, they include advice on accounting regulations, funding opportunities, international trade, etc.

The conference launched the web-

portal *Public-Services.eu* aimed at providing information and services to assist citizens and enterprises carry out cross-border activities with public administrations across Europe.

More than 250 delegates shared views and concluded that eGovernment services, including those with a pan-European dimension, should be delivered at local or sectoral levels, where citizens and enterprises feel more "connected" to administrations.

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Lobbying for archives and libraries

International forums

As the concept of the internal market progresses, the European Union is increasingly regarded as a single economic and judicial area. The European Commission, as well as national civil servants, represent member states at international forums such as the World Intellectual

Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Delegates, especially those from outside the EU, look to EBLIDA to provide a cohesive European view on library and information society issues.

EBLIDA at WIPO

www.wipo.int/copyright/en/index.html



The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCRR) meets every six months at the WIPO headquarters in Geneva. The influential Committee is attended by top government copyright experts from 179 WIPO member states. Their role is to monitor international copyright developments and to initiate new laws e.g. WIPO Copyright Treaty (1996), implemented by the European copyright Directive (2001). So this committee impacts on your work.

EBLIDA is attending the eighth session of the SCRR from 4-8 November 2002 as an observer

organisation, together with the European Blind Union. Discussions have been held with IFLA about future joint representation. Right owners know the value of being present; at the last meeting, thirty three organisations were there!

Some government delegates expressed concern at the increased rights on access to information and raised issues of the impact of new publishing models and fair use practices on libraries. We must take this opportunity to influence the work of this powerful international committee by being present and by getting our views across!

EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group, Prague, 8 November 2002

The seventh meeting of the EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group is a landmark. For the first time, an official EBLIDA meeting will take place in the Czech Republic, an accession country of the European Union. The ten central and eastern European accession countries featured in the EBLIDA projects CECUP and CELIP, which helped raise awareness of copyright & licensing issues in CEE countries, as well as establishing contacts with national library associations.

The EBLIDA CEG will share views on the latest developments in the

implementation of the EU copyright Directive, the European Commission review of the database Directive, initiatives on digital rights management systems, the report on the European public lending right (PLR) and the recent conference on the data protection Directive. EBLIDA would like to express thanks to the national associations and to the individual members of the group for providing invaluable support and advice. This is the strength of EBLIDA!

Audiovisual

Role of media in the applicant countries

The Parliament committee on culture, youth, education, the media and sport will held a public hearing on the Role of the media in the applicant countries and the stability pact countries in Brussels on 12 November.

The hearing will be chaired by MEP Rocard, Chairman of the committee. Issues to be discussed include common features of the political and media environment in the applicant countries

and the stability pact countries; enhancing the quality of information; journalism and politics; the role of the regulatory authorities in the applicant countries and the stability pact countries; challenges and opportunities for public service broadcasting; and how to improve pluralism and information quality standards. Contact Pia Siitonen, email: cult-press@europarl.eu.int or visit: www.europarl.eu.int/hearings/default_en.htm.

Consumer Protection

Council political agreement on justice in cross-border disputes reached

On 14 October, Justice ministers reached a political agreement on a Directive to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes.

The Council called for the remaining technical issues of the directive to be resolved, with a view to its adoption at a forthcoming meeting of the Council. It shall apply, in cross-border disputes, to civil and commercial matters whatever the nature of the court or tribunal. It shall not extend, in particular, to revenue,

customs or administrative matters.

Ireland and the UK have given notice of their wish to take part in the adoption and the application of the directive. Denmark however does not take part and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

Parliament report by MEP Santini (A5-0312/2002) was adopted in plenary on 25 September 2002 (*see Hot News Issue September 2002, p. 4*). The proposed directive is now awaiting final decision/signature.

*Consultation
procedure*

Recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters

Justice ministers adopted on 15 October, a Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the adoption of a Convention between the Community and Denmark on the one hand, and Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Poland, on the other, on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters to replace the Lugano Convention of 16 September 1998.

At present all Community member states as well as Iceland, Norway, Poland and Switzerland, are bound by the Lugano Convention. The purpose of the new Convention would be to establish rules which are to a substantial degree identical to those ensuing from Regulation no 44/2001, which contains internal rules governing the jurisdiction of courts in civil and commercial matters and rules on the recognition and enforcement of judgments.

*88/592/EEC
Convention on
jurisdiction and the
enforcement of
judgments in civil and
commercial matters,
(OJ L 319, 25
November 1988, p. 9-
33
europa.eu.int/eur-lex/.*

Co-operation with third countries

Guidelines for a new Northern Dimension Action Plan

On 21 October, the Danish Presidency presented the conclusions on the new EU guidelines for an action plan under the Northern Dimension policies. With regard to culture, the new action plan should strengthen cultural development and the preservation of cultural heritage, including the promotion and preservation of cultural diversity.

With regard to telecommunications and information society, the new

action plan should encourage further progress made in the framework of the Northern eDimension Action Plan (NeDAP) launched in 2001. Activities might be proposed in high speed research networks and advanced broadband applications, ICT Security, eSkills, eCommerce, eGovernment and Indicators. The possibility of expanding NeDAP to address challenges related to telecommunications in Kaliningrad and the Arctic should be considered.

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Commission decision on collective management and copyright licensing

Continued from Page 1

- collecting societies as a 'one-stop-shop'
- principle of national treatment (all protected recordings, of whatever origin, are subject to the same conditions for all users in the same country)
- efficiencies in lower administration costs can be passed on to both the right holders and to the user

Instead of having to be issued with a sole offer, broadcasters should be able to shop around to get a better deal from collecting societies in other member states - each collecting society would function as a "one stop-shop".

The Commission will force changes in the ruling, expected next month, to the previous agreement sent for approval, under which collecting societies agreed to cooperate to ensure copyright owners in other countries were paid whenever their work was played. The collective

management system offered by collecting societies enables right holders to commercially exploit their rights to a multitude of users even in circumstances where it is difficult for users to obtain individual clearance.

This is the first decision concerning the collective management and licensing of copyright for the purposes of commercial exploitation of musical works on the Internet (Case no COMP/C2/38.014 - IFPI *Simulcasting*)
europa.eu.int/comm/competition/antitrust/cases/decisions/38014/en.pdf.

Culture

Winner of 2002 Sakharov Prize

The winner of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought for 2002 was chosen on Wednesday 23 October by Parliament's Conference of Presidents.

The winner is Mr Oswaldo José Paya Sardiñas, founder of a non-violent pro-

democracy movement in Cuba. The President of the European Parliament, Pat Cox, will award the prize at a formal sitting on 18 December during the plenary session in Strasbourg. This is the 15th anniversary of the Sakharov Prize.

Colloquium on Culture in the European Future Architecture in Europe

The European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) held on 2 October a policy colloquium on *Culture in the European Future Architecture in Europe*. The forum aimed at debating the consequences of the work of the European Convention and enlargement on culture in Europe and the EU's cultural policy.

Cultural operators and networks were invited to convey their needs to the Convention before the first draft of the Constitutional Treaty is finalised and to make suggestions for the new Culture programme.

Some of the conclusions drawn were:

- Culture should be mentioned not only

in the Preamble but also in Article 2 of the current treaty (Principles);

- Incorporation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights would strengthen the position of culture;
- Article 151 should be integrated into the new Treaty;
- Article 151 explicitly excludes any attempt to harmonise national cultural policies at European level;
- Decision-making should be moved to qualified majority voting (QMV);
- Member states should themselves be committed to support cultural co-operation in Europe.

www.efah.org/
www.eurocult.org/

Both organisations will organise follow-up meetings until autumn 2003 preceding the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC).

Theatre and the performing arts in an enlarged Europe

Parliament adopted on 22 October, a resolution based on the own-initiative report by MEP Fraisse (A5-0264/2002) on the performing arts.

Parliament stated that the review of the Culture 2000 programme should result in a better distribution of the budget so that there is a specific annual budget to the performing arts, fine arts, heritage, translation and reading. Parliament pointed out that East and West share a common past and future. Enlargement is a matter of renewing old ties in this respect.

The strong Central and East European traditions in theatre, choreography, circus and music, backed up by a high standard of training and the heritage of a substantial network of cultural institutions will enable the sector to consolidate its position. Co-operation in this field may contribute to the success of enlargement and public support for the European project.

Download the report at www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

Application of the open method of coordination to culture and media

In a written question by MEP Rocard, the Parliament committee on culture has asked the Council to assure that all future proposals in areas of culture, youth, education, the media and sport will be forwarded to Parliament in good time for it to be able to give its opinion before they are considered by the Council.

In addition, in a draft resolution on the application of the open method of

coordination, the committee considers that this method could be developed as a mechanism for improving co-operation at European level not only linked to education and lifelong learning (Lisbon strategy) but also in fields of culture, media, sport and youth. The question should be voted on at their next meeting on 11 November. The draft resolution, for which ten amendments have been presented, will also be adopted on the same day.

Education

279 projects have been selected under Leonardo da Vinci for 2002

A total of 279 projects from 30 participating countries have been selected this year under the Leonardo da Vinci programme. The selected projects will receive a total amount of €89.7 million to co-finance their activities.

The projects cover a wide range of vocational education and training topics. Some Europe-wide trends have emerged from the proposals: quality in training; transparency, validation and recognition of training; projects dealing with integration into the labour market; eLearning and ICT in general.

A new call for proposals was launched earlier this year which contains three

new priorities from 2003 and 2004: valuing learning; new forms of learning and teaching and basic skills in vocational education and training and guidance and counselling. The new priorities aim at focusing on priority policy areas in vocational education and training and at encouraging wide participation in the programme. The deadline was 4 November 2002.

Contacts and general information can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo/leonardo2_en.html. The list of selected projects is available from the spokesman's office, email to eac-management-ldv-call2002@cec.eu.int.

Court of Auditors report on the Socrates and Youth for Europe programmes

On 15 October, Agriculture ministers adopted a set of conclusions on the Court of Auditors special report on the Socrates and Youth for Europe Community action programmes.

The Council took note of:

- criticism of the design of the programmes, in particular the Socrates programme, and the lack of synergy between the programme actions as well as with other Community Programmes;
- various deficiencies in the functioning of the Technical Assistance Offices (TAOs);
- delays and inadequate management in the implementation of the programmes

and in the evaluation process.

The purpose of the Court's audit was to assess the financial management of the Socrates and Youth for Europe programmes both by the Commission and Member States for the 1995-1999 period, with an emphasis on decision making procedures, monitoring and evaluation. Replies given by the Commission are annexed to the report.

The report (2/2002) was published in the OJ no 2002/C 136/01 of 07.06.02, p. 1, available at: <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/> or www.eca.eu.int/EN/reports_opinions.htm.

Proposed directive on migration for studies and vocational training

On 7 October, the European Commission published a draft directive (COM(2002) 0548) to harmonise the entry and residence of third country nationals for studies, training periods and voluntary work in a member state.

The proposed directive distinguishes between four categories of third-country nationals: students, school-pupils, unremunerated trainees and volunteers. Admission for study purposes mainly concerns higher education. This where international mobility is most common.

It lays down general principles and leaves it up to the addressee member states to choose the most appropriate form and methods for implementing many points of it in their domestic law in the domestic context.

The proposed directive is available at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2002/com2002_0548en01.pdf. The Citizens' freedoms and rights, justice will be responsible for drafting Parliament's report.

Consultation procedure

Eurydice network survey on teaching profession in Europe

Eurydice has published *The teaching profession in Europe: profile, trends and concerns*, a comparative study on the attractiveness, distinctive features and occupational content of the teaching profession in the 30 European countries covered by the Eurydice Network. This study consists of four special reports that are being made available online as soon as they are completed.

The first report *Initial training and transition to working life of teachers in general lower secondary education* (August 2002) offers a comparative analysis of various aspects of initial teacher training for general lower secondary education in Europe, and of

transitional measures to facilitate the entry of teachers into professional life.

The second report *Teacher supply and demand at general lower secondary level* (September 2002) gives projections of demographic trends that may affect the balance between teacher supply and demand.

The third report *Conditions of service* will be available by the end of this year and the fourth *Summary and contextual analysis* by the end of March 2003. Visit

<http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/KeyTopics3/en/FrameSet1.htm>.

Parliament report on the implementation of the Leonardo da Vinci

The proposal by Parliament to present the European Commission Interim Report (COM(2002)0315, 14 June 2002) on the implementation of the second phase of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme (2000-2006) has been withdrawn.

A report by MEP Stauner for the Committee on employment on the

implementation (1995-1999 and 2000-2006) of the programme is however, awaiting vote in plenary, scheduled for April 2003.

Download the report (A5-0449/2001) from www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

Public consultation on the future development of EU education, training and youth

The European Commission launched on 4 November, a large-scale public consultation on the development of new European programmes in education, training, and youth. These will replace the existing Socrates, Tempus, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth programmes when they end in 2006.

The consultation, which runs from 4 November 2002 to 28 February 2003, is designed to give the Commission a full picture of the needs, ambitions and wishes of those involved in education, training and youth at European level. The results of the

consultation will feed into the legislative proposals for new programmes that the Commission will prepare next year.

The basis for the consultation is a document which can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/newprogconsult/index.html>. You are strongly encouraged to send your replies to the consultation via a web-based online response form which will be available at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/newprogconsult/index.html> in December 2002.

The consortium will provide:

- information on standardisation, certification, EC marking, and organise feedback
- participation in national/European standardisation bodies
- participation in strategic meetings, committees and conferences
- dissemination of relevant information

Interinstitutional agreement

Enterprise

Commission calls for involvement of SMEs in European standardisation

The Commission has concluded a one-year contract with the consortium of UEAPME (Union of European Associations of Small and Medium Enterprises) and NORMAPME (European Office of Craft-Trades and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Standardisation) to better involve

SMEs in standards setting. Members of ISO, IEC and ITU celebrate on 14 October World Standards Day each year.

Visit:

europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/standards_policy/index.htm;
<http://www.newapproach.org/>.

EU Information Policy

Parliament approves agreement on access to sensitive Council documents

On 23 October, Parliament adopted the report by MEP Brok (A5-0329/2002) approving the interinstitutional agreement (non-legislative referral) between Parliament and Council on access by Parliament to sensitive Council documents on security and defence and incorporating the agreement into Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

For documents classified as 'confidential', 'secret' or 'top secret', Parliament has until now been subject to the same restrictions as the public. Under the new agreement, the President of Parliament and a special committee will be informed by the Council Presidency or the High Representative of the content of sensitive documents if these are needed for Parliament to perform its democratic

functions. They can also ask to consult the documents on the Council's premises. Various procedures for informing and/or forwarding documents to Parliament are laid down according to the level of confidentiality of the documents.

Information originating from non-EU states or international organisations will only be forwarded with their agreement. EU member states may decide to restrict the dissemination of classified documents. Moreover, the agreement may be reviewed after two years at the request of one of the two institutions after an assessment has been made. The report, awaiting vote in plenary, can be downloaded at www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

EU Research and Development

New CORDIS services dedicated to FP6 (2002-2006)

<http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/>

The service aims at offering comprehensive and updated information for those wishing to participate in or benefit from the FP6.

It includes:

- calls for proposals and funding

opportunities;

- information on how to participate;
- services for each specific research area;
- participation support tools;
- online submission of proposals;
- FAQs, key contacts and other relevant links.

Commission receives nearly 12,000 expressions of interest to participate in FP6

The European Commission has released the results of the expressions of interest (EoI) [Identifier: EOI.FP6.2002, OJ no 2002/C 71/06, 20 March 2002, p. 14] to participate in research actions with an *Integrated Project* or a *Network of Excellence* for topics throughout the seven thematic priorities of the specific programme proposal 'Integrating and Strengthening the ERA' and thematic priorities of the specific programme proposal 'Nuclear Energy'.

2,591 EoIs were received under priority thematic area 'Information Society Technologies' and 1,187 EoIs under 'Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based society'.

A full analysis of the EoIs is now available to download. You can browse and search on the CORDIS EoI site at http://eoi.cordis.lu/search_form.cfm; <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-instruments/>.

Networks of Excellence

- European Social Science Virtual Library and Research Network (Germany)
- Social Representations /Communication European Excellence Network (Italy)
- The Patlib Centres Network of Excellence (Belgium)

Some Integrated Projects

- Digital Mathematics Library (Switzerland)
- Local Community - Openness, Transparency, Information - A European Perspective (Norway)
- Bearing Witness (UK)
- From Preservation to Communication: Activating Cultural Heritage through Historical Multi-alphabetical Library Materials (Finland)

Candidate Countries join the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)

On 29 October 2002, the European Commission and candidate countries signed an association agreement for the sixth framework programme (FP6) 2002-2006. All candidate countries have expressed their wish to be associated to it.

The general agreement for their association to Community programmes is already in force for all candidate countries. Each candidate country will be associated to FP6 through the signature of a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which will enable the full association to the FP6.

Candidate countries will have the possibility to share with member states the overall budget of € 17.5 billion and should be treated exactly the same way as the member states in FP6. Visit: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research>; http://bru.cordis.lu/demo/national_service/en/candidate-countries.htm.

CORDIS Partners Service online

The CORDIS Partners service, www.cordis.lu/en/src/i_002_en.htm offers the tools to establish partnerships for participation in EU research programmes. You can create

and/or update your own organisation profile as well as search for compatible partners among those who have already registered.

Information Society

IDA Conference on pan-European eGovernment services

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The conference also presented the results of the IDA open consultation on pan-European eGovernment services and an eGovernment Observatory survey on eGovernment services to enterprises.

Full proceedings and reports from the conference are available at:

europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showDocument&parent=news&documentID=579

Public-Services.eu,
<http://europa.eu.int/public-services>.

Further information on IDA programme,
<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/>.

eGovernment conference launches new pan-European portal

eForum, the Forum for European ePublic Services, is a Europe-wide organisation co-funded by the DG INFSO and dedicated to encouraging eGovernment excellence in Europe. eForum has more than 350 members from over 250 organisations in 35 countries.

The first eForum report on public services requirements was presented on 23 October. It aimed at:

- identifying key issues, barriers and options/solutions in the implementation

of eGovernment applications and services;

- defining priority domains of activity with the local, regional and national levels of administrations in member states ;
- selecting priority topics to be covered by the eForum working groups.

In addition, eForum will launch six pan-European working groups on topics identified by the survey e.g. eDemocracy.

Visit: <http://www.eu-forum.org/>.

The impact of the Charter of fundamental rights of the Union and its future

The House adopted on 23 October a resolution by 344 votes in favour, 79 against with 28 abstentions calling for the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to be included in the new constitutional treaty for the Union. Parliament is calling on the Convention to make the Charter legally binding by classifying it as primary law, which would allow court cases to be brought on the basis of the rights laid down in the Charter.

The Charter should be incorporated into the new constitutional treaty without any changes to its substance, and any later alterations should be prepared by a special new Convention, which should be gender

balanced and should work to reinforce the principle of equality between the sexes.

On the question of there being any 'competition' between the Charter and the European Convention on Human Rights, the committee was of the view that the EU, once it had a legal personality of its own, should sign up to the Convention, as this would complete the protective shield of fundamental rights. However, this would not alter the need to make the Charter legally binding.

The report by MEP Duff (A5-0332/2002) is available at:

www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

eForum Topics are:

- Benefits and Take-up
- Shared Infrastructure
- Change management/Cross Institutional Issues
- Security, Authentication, Protection of Personal data
- Procurement Terms and Conditions
- eDemocracy

The EU and the information society, Towards a knowledge-based Europe

The European Commission completed in October, a brochure (NA-40-01-989-EN-C) on the EU and the information society.

The Internet is changing the world we live in, and the challenge for Europe is to embrace the digital age and become a truly knowledge-based

economy. eEurope is the EU's scheme for guiding this process of change.

The brochure is available online at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/publications/brochures/move/infoeduc/knowledge/en.pdf>.

Internal Market

Brussels event on SOLVIT network

If EU citizens and businesses feel that they are being denied access to their Internal Market rights because of misapplication of EU law they can take their problem to a SOLVIT Centre either in their member state of origin or in the one where they are living or doing business.

The SOLVIT system is free of charge and all the SOLVIT Centres can be contacted directly at http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/ or by the Commission's Signpost Service, which gives citizens personalised advice,

information on EU law and "signposts" questioners to where they can get further help. The Signpost Service can be contacted through the Europe Direct Call Centre, 00800 67891011 or through the Dialogue with Citizens website: europa.eu.int/citizensrights/signpost/front_end/signpost_en.htm.

A conference on SOLVIT was held in Brussels on 30 October which aimed at increasing awareness of the network and its benefits to potential users. Visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/news_en.htm.

EU-wide registration of designs moves closer

The Commission adopted on 22 October, a Regulation (www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/indprop/design/index.htm) to allow the EU's Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) to begin registering Community designs in early 2003. Community Design registration will offer companies EU-wide protection with a single application. Companies will nevertheless continue to have the option of registering designs under national law, as harmonised by Directive 98/71/EC, if they prefer.

Those registering designs will be

granted exclusive rights to use the design concerned and to prevent any third party from using it anywhere within the EU for up to 25 years. Designs can also benefit from protection from deliberate copying even without prior registration with the Office (Unregistered Community Designs). The only remaining step before registering designs is the setting of fees, issue which the Commission is already discussing.

OHIM may start receiving the first pre-applications at the beginning of 2003, with the first official registrations taking effect from April 2003.

<http://oami.eu.int/>

Internet

Parliament resolution on attacks against information systems adopted

Parliament adopted on 22 October, the resolution by MEP Cederschiöld approving the Commission's proposal on preventing attacks against information systems.

With regard to information campaigns, Parliament inserted a clause stating that the Commission must take the initiative to raise awareness among citizens, business and the public sector concerning security risks on electronic

communication networks. Parliament also stipulated that conduct is not unlawful where a person has a right, by contract or by law to operate an information system.

The full report (A5-0328/2002) can be downloaded at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports. The Council final act is expected on 28 November 2002.

Parliament resolution on role of public sector in information security

On 22 October, Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report by MEP Paciotti on network security (*Please refer to Hot News Issue October 2002, p. 11*).

The Commission should give priority to examining the security needs of, and to carrying out eInfrastructure early warning research for networks used for providing: critical infrastructure, essential public and health services; early warning systems and their interoperability; services for the

development of eGovernment and eBusiness.

The first legislative action should be based on the Community's competences in relation to the trans-European networks and the internal market. Download the report (A5-0311/2002) from http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports. Parliament's opinion is not binding.

Consultation procedure

Social Policy

Consultation on the protection of personal data in employment

The Commission is consulting social partners on the question of personal data protection in the employment context, including the possibility for future Community action.

A first stage consultation was launched at the end of August 2001.

A new document has been prepared to launch the second stage consultation with the social partners.

Download from http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2002/oct/data_prot_en.pdf.

Council debate on report concerning poverty and social inclusion

Employment ministers heard on 8 October, a progress report on the Social Protection Committee's work concerning the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Union.

The report focused on the work undertaken in view of the drawing up

of the second round of national action plans on social inclusion, due to be submitted by the member states in Spring/Summer 2003. A revision of the common objectives is to be agreed in time for the Copenhagen European Council on 12 and 13 December 2002.

Parliament resolution on action plan for skills and mobility adopted

On 10 October, Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report by MEP Bastos on the Commission's action plan for skills and mobility. (Please refer to Hot News Issue October 2002, p. 12). The House adopted the resolution by 390 votes in favour 22 against with 65 abstentions including non-binding amendments.

According to the report, the Commission should examine how the proposed network of industry/ educational advisory bodies can help tackle the high number of people leaving school without formal qualifications. Whilst Parliament is pleased with the emphasis placed on cross-cultural education, member states must still ensure that better

information is provided on the possibilities offered by the programmes available. A solution must be found for the excessively long qualifying period. It is also important to eliminate double taxation and eliminate or reduce tax on contributions. In addition, Parliament asked the Commission to lay down migration management criteria, targets and measures to help immigrants integrate through work. There ought to be secondary measures in those areas to achieve the aims of the action plan.

The full report (A5-0313/02) can be downloaded from www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

Procedure terminated

Telecommunications

Inaugural meeting of European Regulators' Group in Telecommunications

The inaugural meeting of the European Regulators' Group for electronic communications networks and services was held in Brussels on 25 October 2002.

The European Commission and National Regulatory Authorities need to look together at what specific actions can be undertaken. Any actions must take into account two factors: the need to ensure that the new regulatory framework is fully implemented on time and that it remains stable and that the integrity of the European internal market and the principles of competition policy are respected.

Amongst the items discussed were the future work programme of the Group, to be agreed at their next meeting in January 2003 and consultation with interested parties. Details of future meetings, agendas and the work programme will be published in advance, and market players will regularly be invited to contribute to the work programme.

Contributions from market players on priorities for areas where harmonisation of regulatory measures is needed should be sent to info-A1@cec.eu.int and salonso@cmt.es by 31 December 2002.

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EBLIDA Hot News electronic provides links to calls and programmes!

Calls are in general published in the C series of the Official Journal (OJ) of the European Communities, which comprises information and notices issued by the institutions of the Union, such as preparatory legislative documents and questions put by Members of Parliament to the Commission and Council. The C series is available on-line via EUR-Lex, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

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