



May 2006

EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

Highlights:

- § Green paper on a European Transparency Initiative, p.1
- § Note from EBLIDA Director, p. 2
- § 1st annual report on i2010, European Information Society, p. 11

Intellectual Property Rights

Collecting societies seek dialogue to liberalise the European copyright market

On 7 February, the Commission sent Statement of Objections (SO) to the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC) and its EEA members, following complaints filed by *RTL* (2000) and *Music Choice Europe* (2003) (*see MEMO/06/63 of 7 February 2006*). The objections, which deal only with the transmissions of music via cable, satellite and Internet, target three clauses of the reciprocal representation agreements signed between authors' societies.

In its written response to the Commission, CISAC (<http://www.cisac.org/>) has emphasised that reciprocal representation agreements are partly inspired by a CISAC model contract which is not mandatory. In recent years, CISAC voluntarily dropped two of the three clauses which are no longer in force in its model contract. The right for authors to join the society of their choice within the EEA has thus been recognised by

CISAC. Equally the model contract no longer provides for any exclusivity in the representation mandate a given society is granting to other societies.

BUMA, the Dutch collecting society for copyright holders (<http://www.bumastemra.nl/>) has on the other hand backed up the EU in its efforts to liberalise the copyright market in Europe as it believes it would best serve the interests of authors, composers, editors and consumers.

As regards the reform of the IP Law in Spain, CISAC expressed its concern to Mrs Carmen Calvo Poyato (Spanish Minister of Culture) over certain amendments to the Bill, which is currently before the Upper Chamber of the Spanish Parliament after having been approved by the House of Representatives. CISAC believes that it constitutes a real threat to authors' rights as established by the current Spanish IP Law.

EU Information Policy

Green paper on a European Transparency Initiative

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eti/index_en.htm

The Commission identified three key components of the European Transparency Initiative (ETI) which are the subject of a Green Paper published on 3 May (*COM (2006)0194*): the need for a more structured framework for the activities of interest representatives (lobbyists); feedback on the Commission's minimum standards for consultation and mandatory disclosure of information about the beneficiaries of EU funds under shared management questions contained in the specific chapters on each of the three issues.

comments on a policy proposal by the Commission must provide the Commission and the public with interests they represent and how inclusive that representation is.

This information should be made available either through CONECCS, a voluntary database on European civil society organisations (http://europa.eu.int/comm/civil_society/conecs/index_en.htm), or through other measures e.g. special information sheets. If not provided, submissions will be considered as individual contributions.

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Interested parties that wish to submit

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Lobbying for archives and libraries

Note from EBLIDA Director

My first month as director for EBLIDA has been a busy one. It started with the annual Council Meeting in Budapest which afforded me the opportunity to meet many of those who I will be working with in the future. At the Council Meeting it was agreed that EBLIDA's strategic communication is of vital importance and this was added to the Annual Work Plan for 2006. In a later issue of *Hot News* this year I will suggest how EBLIDA might improve its communication with members and the outside world in order to ensure all stakeholders benefit from the work EBLIDA is doing and providing relevant information for the library and information community in Europe.

In May a delegation from EBLIDA met with the *Federation of European Publishers (FEP, <http://www.fep-fee.be/>)* in Brussels to discuss issues of common interest, including the *European Digital Library (<http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/index.html>)*, the *Google Print Library Project (<http://books.google.com/googleprint/library.html>)* and various aspects of relevant EU copyright legislation. Obviously organizations such as FEP and EBLIDA have different opinions on many aspects of IPR, copyright and public access, but we also share common goals. It is our intention to hold these meetings twice yearly, as we feel they are instrumental in creating a better understanding of different positions. The visit to Brussels also afforded me the opportunity to meet with representatives from the *European Booksellers Federation (<http://www.ebf-eu.org/>)* and discuss areas of common ground.

The "*Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific markets in Europe*" report published earlier this year has solicited many responses from interested parties and EBLIDA's statement can be seen on our website. The report is a very thorough analysis of the challenges that the digital age has brought to scientific publishing and EBLIDA warmly supports the recommendations of the report.

EBLIDA has also responded to the EC's *White Paper on a Communication policy* where EBLIDA, outlining EBLIDA's position on the citizen's right to access to information and freedom of expression and how this might be threatened by over zealous protection measures.

At the Council meeting the question of cooperation with other relevant organizations was discussed and to this end I have already met with representatives from *IFLA (<http://www.ifla.org/>)* and will be meeting with *LIBER (<http://www.kb.dk/liber/>)* in the middle of June. I feel that not least in the areas of trade (WTO, GATS, WIPO) we can benefit from each others knowledge and participation, in what is often a very complex and non-transparent world.

At the end of June I, along with colleagues from IFLA and *eIFL.net (<http://www.eifl.net/>)*, will be attending the second session of the Provisional Committee on Proposals Related to a WIPO Development Agenda (PCDA) in Geneva, an opportunity to see international diplomacy in action!

Andrew Cranfield
Director

Audiovisual

Media 2007 programme

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5189552>

*Co decision Procedure
First Reading*

Following the agreement on the financial framework for 2007-2013, the Council reached a political agreement on a decision establishing the Media 2007 programme for the European audiovisual sector (a partial agreement was reached on 14-15 November 2005).

A budget of € 750 million is earmarked,

which will oblige the Commission to select beneficiaries with great care; the EU-10 and organisations that have not yet received Media financing will be given preference.

The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a forthcoming Council and sent to Parliament for second reading (*Rapporteur, MEP Hieronymi*).

Protection of minors and human dignity

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=243292>

*Co decision Procedure
First Reading*

The Council reached political agreement on a draft recommendation on the protection of minors and human dignity and on the right of reply in the European audiovisual and online information services industry. The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a subsequent Council and sent to Parliament for second reading (The Netherlands, Slovakia and the UK announced their intention to abstain when the act is adopted).

It calls on Member States, the industry and interested parties as well as the Commission, to enhance the protection of minors and human dignity in the broadcasting and Internet sectors. It also recommends that the Member States consider the introduction of

measures regarding the right of reply in relation to online media. It builds upon the *Council Recommendation 98/560/EC of 24 September 1998*, which remains valid and responds to the new challenges both in quantitative (more “illegal” content) and qualitative terms (new platforms, new products) that technological developments bring in this field. The draft recommendation addresses media literacy; rating or classification of audiovisual content; portrayal of the sexes in the media and advertising; and right of reply.

Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 7 September 2005; the Commission in turn presented its modified proposal (*COM (2006)0031*) on 20 January.

Television without frontiers

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5301252>

*Co decision Procedure
First Reading*

Pending Parliament's opinion, Audiovisual ministers held a debate on the proposed directive amending the Directive on the pursuit of TV broadcasting activities, which covered in particular, the distinction between linear and non-linear services; the common rules applying to both categories of services; and the extent of the modernisation and simplification of the TV advertising and tele shopping rules.

A number of issues need to be further discussed e.g. further legal clarity, particularly regarding definitions and scope, the functioning of the country of origin principle.

An impact study on the current *TV without Frontiers Directive* suggests that there is no

need to change either the majority share for European works or the minimum share for independent ones. These “content quotas” already achieve their cultural aims. To safeguard the integrity of the cinematographic films, the new directive would provide that cinematographic works may only be interrupted once in every 35 minutes.

It builds on the eCommerce Directive in e.g. the protection of minors, hate speech, promotion of cultural diversity and advertising for a specific sub-set of services.

The CULT Committee (*Rapporteur, MEP Hieronymi*) is expected to draw up its report by October; vote in plenary is scheduled for 29 November.

Consumer Protection

Report on the European judicial network in civil and commercial matters

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=9236993>

COM (2006)0203 and SEC (2006)0579 of 16 May 2006

According to the report, published on 16 May, the Commission considers that the Network has attained the objectives assigned to it but notes that it is still far from having developed its full potential. The Commission would thus like all the main contact points in the Member States to, amongst others, have access to an intranet with the national courts; complete the development of the Network's website in terms of content and languages; information campaigns on the Network's activities and the instruments of judicial cooperation; online discussion groups to be

created within the Network; contact points gradually to become accessible to the public; the Network to be gradually opened up to other legal practitioners involved in the operation of justice; cooperation between the Judicial Network and ECC-Net; and the maintenance of relations with other European networks of judicial institutions and judges to improve mutual confidence.

The Commission is planning to report on the activities of the Network every two years from 2006. A study on the operation of the Network can be consulted at http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/doc_centre/civil/doc_civil_intro_en.htm.

Intellectual Property Rights

Collective management of copyright for legitimate online music services

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5303682>

The Commission Recommendation of 18 May 2005 (2005 L 276/ of 21 October 2005, p. 54) invites the Member States to facilitate the growth of legitimate online services in the Community by promoting a regulatory environment which is best suited to the management, at Community level, of copyright and related rights for the provision of legitimate online music services. It is addressed to the Member States and to all economic operators which are involved in the management of copyright and related rights within the Community. It also covers the relationship between right holders, collective rights managers and commercial users; equitable distribution and deductions; non-discrimination and representation; accountability and dispute settlement.

In its draft opinion for the CULT Committee, MEP Mavrommatis supports the Commission's proposal concerning the possibility for the right holders to choose a collective rights managers (CRM), determine the entrusted online rights and their territorial scope and the right to withdraw the rights from the CRM or to transfer them

to another CRM, as well as to withdraw them from any reciprocal agreements. The Rapporteur also believes that the possibility for the right holders to choose a CRM regardless of the Member State in which it is located, will promote cultural diversity and will stimulate competition in the internal market.

He calls on the Member States to ensure a fair representation of all categories of right holders in CRM and thus their balanced participation in the internal decision-making process as well as to proceed with the necessary reforms so that commercial users e.g. TV and radio stations, Internet music services, public places (bars, night-clubs, restaurants, etc) duly pay equitable royalties to the right holders. Moreover, he supports the idea that the right holders should be free to provide commercial users with global licences for online uses (including mobile telephony uses) of their repertoire.

The Legal Affairs Committee (MEP Lévai) is due to adopt its report on 12 July; plenary vote is scheduled for 26 September.

Effects of the copyright levies collection system in Europe

<http://www.eicta.org/files/EconomicImpactStudy193713A.pdf>

A coalition of Associations (EICTA, EDIMA, RIAE, BSA and EABC) representing the European ICT, consumer electronics and digital media industries was launched on 5 April to press for urgent reform on copyright levies in the EU. The Copyright Levies Reform Alliance (CLRA) wants to improve fairness and transparency in the collection of copyright levies and provide fair treatment for consumers and fair compensation for content creators.

The CLRA published on 4 May an economic impact study on "Private Copying Levies on Digital Equipment and Media: Direct Effects on Consumers and Producers and Indirect Effects on Sales of Online Music and Ring tones", which includes impacts of currently

applied or claimed but disputed levies, as well as the extension of levies to products that might not be currently levied in a particular country but are levied in at least one country. Blank digital media (CDs, DVDs and flash memory) and digital recording equipment (CD burners, DVD burners, mobile phones with MP3 capability, multifunction devices, PCs, personal video recorders, portable digital audio (MP3) players, printers and scanners) are included.

Impacts are calculated in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, Canada, Japan and an aggregate rest-of-world "country."

Cannes Extension Agreement, Universal International Music BV/MCPS

On 27 February 2003 the record company *Universal International Music BV* filed a complaint with the Commission concerning a clause of the **Cannes Extension Agreement** (the Agreement), which aims at regulating certain issues in the relations between the thirteen collecting societies and the five major publishers in the administration of mechanical copyright for the reproduction of sound recordings on physical carriers.

The Agreement was subsequently notified to the Commission under the procedure of Regulation no 17. The notification procedure was discontinued after the entry into force of *Regulation EC/1/2003*. The Commission informed the thirteen collecting societies and

the five major publishers by letter dated 24 January 2006 of its preliminary assessment within the meaning of *Article 9(1) of Regulation EC/1/2003*.

Two clauses of the Agreement raise serious concerns as to their compatibility with Article 81 of the EC Treaty and 53 of the EEA Agreement. The first is **clause 9(a)** of the Agreement which relates to the granting of rebates by collecting societies to record companies in the context of Central Licensing Agreements, which are multi-repertoire one-stop-shop licenses for the whole EEA territory. The second is **clause 7(a) (i)**, which relates to the ability of collecting societies to undertake commercial publishing or record producing activities.

*Case COMP/C.2/38.681
OJ 2006/C 122/02, p. 2
23 May 2006*

Culture

Strengthening European creative industries (Growth and Jobs)

On 18 May, Culture ministers held an exchange of views on strengthening the European creative industries. On 2 and 3 March, an EU expert seminar on *Content for competitiveness* was held in Vienna, which showed that content and creative industries possess a large potential for creating growth and employment thus contributing to the goal set out in the Lisbon agenda. It also underlined the need for a coherent policy with regard to content and creative

industries, in particular exploiting the full potential of ICT. On the basis of the results of the seminar and other initiatives, the following issues were debated: priorities for content and creative industries that are relevant for the updating of the *Work Plan for Culture* and implementation of the *i2010 Initiative* as well as improvement of the dialogue between all stakeholders of the cultural, audiovisual and ICT sectors on the European level.

Culture

Culture 2007 programme

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5190192>

Following the agreement on the financial framework for 2007-2013, the Council reached a political agreement on the draft decision establishing the Culture 2007 programme, aimed at providing financial support for the European cultural sector for 2007-2013. Both the Commission and the Council agreed, as proposed by Parliament, to transfer **strand 2.2** (actions for the

preservation of memorials) to the proposed Citizens for Europe programme. The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a subsequent Council and sent to Parliament for second reading (*Rapporteur*; *MEP Graça Moura*).

Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 25 October 2005.

Co decision Procedure
First Reading

European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5279532>

Pending Parliament's opinion, the Council reached a general approach on a draft decision designating 2008 as the European year of intercultural dialogue on 18 May, which will allow the Community to support information and promotion campaigns,

events and initiatives, surveys and studies aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue.

The report by MEP Hennicot-Schoepges (*A6-0168/2006*) was adopted on 8 May; vote in plenary is scheduled for 31 May.

Co decision Procedure
First Reading

UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5301262>

Culture ministers also adopted a decision to authorise the EC to approve and, accordingly, become a party to the UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (*20 October 2005*), together with the Member States.

The UNESCO Convention establishes a series of rights and obligations to protect and promote cultural diversity.

Parliament resolution, (*P6_TA-PROV (2006)0151 of 27 April*), is awaiting publication in the OJ.

European Capital of Culture 2011

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/other_actions/cap_europ/cap_eu_en.html

On 18 May, Culture ministers took note of the names of the leading figures proposed by Austria (Mr Thomas ANGYAN) and Finland (Mr Seppo KIMANEN) to be nominated as members of the selection panel

responsible for the designation of the 2011 "European capitals of culture". They will officially be appointed by the Council in the second half of this year.

Citizens for Europe programme

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5243942>

On 18 May, Culture ministers reached a political agreement on the draft decision establishing the Citizens for Europe programme (2007-2013) to promote active European citizenship. The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a forthcoming Council and sent to Parliament for second reading.

phasing-out period) it was agreed to add the *Institute für Europäische Politik*, the *European Council on Refugees and Exiles* and the *Maisons de l'Europe* to the list and to establish a funding phasing-out period of 3 years. Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and the UK announced their intention to abstain when the act is adopted.

Co decision Procedure
First Reading

Regarding the outstanding issue to be resolved (the designated bodies and the

Parliament adopted its first reading opinion on 5 April.

Education

Lifelong Learning Programme

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5190202>

*Co decision Procedure
First Reading*

On 19 May, Education ministers held an exchange of views on the financial aspects of the Lifelong Learning Programme, in the light of the result of the negotiations on the draft financial perspective 2007-2013. The new integrated programme will comprise four sub-programmes already existing within the current Socrates programme: **Comenius** (school education); **Erasmus** (higher education); **Leonardo da Vinci**, (vocational education and training); **Grundtvig** (adult education).

Following the inter-institutional dialogue on the 2007-2013 financial perspective, the

budget allocation for the lifelong learning programme stands at € 6 970 million (in cash prices); the Commission had proposed € 13 620 million (cash prices).

Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 25 October 2005 (*Rapporteur, MEP Pack*). A large number of the amendments proposed have been incorporated into the text, either in whole, in part or in essence.

The Commission in turn, presented its amended proposal on 24 May (*COM (2006)0236 of 24 May 2006*).

Key competences for lifelong learning

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5289042>

*Co decision Procedure
First Reading*

Pending Parliament's opinion (*Rapporteur, MEP Triebel*), which is scheduled for 4 July, the Council agreed a general approach (UK could not yet lift its parliamentary scrutiny reservation) on the draft recommendation

on key competences for lifelong learning.

The proposal further establishes how the key competences can be accessed through lifelong learning.

Council resolution on values of non-formal and informal learning

Education ministers adopted on 19 May, a resolution on the values of non-formal and informal learning, which invites the Member States and the Commission to encourage the development of a comparable youth-specific element within Euro pass to recognise the skills and competences acquired by young people through non-formal and informal learning. It could be attached to or form an integral part of, certificates or other recognition tools to make it easier for third persons to understand what the original certificate means.

Member States and the Commission are also

invited to identify those competences acquired and actually used, with a view to their recognition on the labour market; to promote application of the common European principles for the identification and validation of non-formal learning; to encourage further research into the impact of non-formal and informal learning provided by those working in the youth field and youth organisations, in particular their contribution to society and the economy and to promote access to Euro pass and similar instruments existing at national and European level and encourage young people to use these on a voluntary basis.

European Quality Charter for Mobility

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5274982>

*Co decision Procedure
First Reading*

Pending Parliament's opinion (*Rapporteur, MEP Prets*), which is scheduled for 27 September, the Council has agreed a general approach on the draft recommendation on Trans-national mobility within the Community for education and training

purposes: the European Quality Charter for Mobility.

The proposed charter consists of ten practical and easily accessible guidelines covering the period prior to departure, during the stay and after the person's return.

Education

Council conclusions on the European indicator of language competence

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/file.jsp?id=5288422>

Education ministers adopted on 19 May conclusions on the European indicator of language competence inviting the Commission to: set up an Advisory Board (EILC) composed of a representative of each Member State and one representative of the Council of Europe, to advise it on technical matters e.g. the specification of the tender for the creation of the testing instruments; the assessment of the work of the contractor; and the appropriate arrangements, standards and technical

protocols for data-gathering activities in the Member States, taking into consideration the need to prevent undue administrative and financial burdens for the Member States.

The Council wants the Commission to report back on progress and, if appropriate, on any issues outstanding by the end of 2006. Parliament in turn, adopted a resolution in April (*P6_TA-PROV (2006)0184 of 27 April 2006*), which is now awaiting publication in the Official Journal.

Lifelong learning development of competencies and qualifications

http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/Fram_of_actions_LLL_evaluation_report_FINAL_2006.pdf

On the eve of the EU Education Council on 19 May, UEAPME, UNICE, CEEP and ETUC met the Troika of Education Ministers and Jan Figel to present their evaluation report of four years' joint work to promote the lifelong development of competences and qualifications in Europe.

It analyses the impact of more than 350 selected social partners' initiatives: 108 aimed at identifying skills needs; 89 at finding ways to validate competences; 53 at informing and guiding companies/workers and 100 at mobilising resources efficiently. Among the

initiatives analysed, over 70 concern companies' best practice and 280 social partners' initiatives at Sectoral or national levels.

It comprises national evaluation reports; the "main trends" section summarises the information available on the initiatives taken from 2003 to 2005 and assesses the impact of the actions on labour markets across Europe. The text of the framework of actions (2002) and a list of contact persons from national and European organisations can be found at annex.

Delivering on the modernisation agenda for universities

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/lisbon_en.html

COM (2006)0208 of 10 May 2006

Commissioners Figel and Potočník jointly presented on 10 May a Communication urging Member States to press on with the modernisation of Europe's universities. It covers all the activities of Europe's universities e.g. education delivery, research activities, their potential as drivers of innovation.

The Commission identifies nine areas where changes should be made for Europe's universities to contribute to the creation of a true knowledge economy. Each institution should find the balance of education, research and innovation which is best suited to its role in its region or country.

Moreover, the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) carried out between

November 2004 and December 2005 a survey on perceptions of European higher education in third countries (<http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/acareport.pdf>). With about 20,000 respondents, it was one of the largest surveys of its kind ever conducted. One of the main results is that there is a clear lack of information on study opportunities in Europe.

Based on the results, the report makes the following recommendations: to create a perception of European higher education as a whole by means of a "European brand" common to all European countries; to make study opportunities in Europe much better known outside of the EU; and to improve Europe's educational offer to become and remain attractive to students from elsewhere.

Education

Progress towards the Lisbon Objectives in the field of education and training

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/news_en.html

This Commission Staff Working (SEC (2006)0639 of 16 May 2006) is the third annual report examining performance and progress of education & training systems in the EU. It is based on 29 indicators and the five benchmarks in the field of education and training which now covers 31 European countries (EU, acceding countries, candidate countries and countries of the EEA).

The 2006 report indicates that since 2000, progress was only moderate in increasing participation in lifelong learning and in reducing the number of early school leavers.

Little or no progress has so far been achieved in expanding the share of young people who finish upper-secondary school, and reducing the number of 15-year-olds with poor reading skills.

By the end of 2006, the Commission will report on the initiatives it has taken in terms of developing new indicators; assess the progress made towards the establishment of a coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks and reconsider the suitability of the existing 29 indicators used for monitoring progress.

EU Information Policy

Green Paper on European Transparency Initiative

...continues from Page 1

The consultation is open until 31 August 2006. Contributions are to be sent via http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eti/index_en.htm. After consultation, the Commission will

analyse and summarise the results in a report. It will also consider what concrete measures it may be appropriate to take to enhance transparency in the EU.

White paper on a European communication policy

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5329222>

The White Paper on a European communication policy (COM (2006)0035 of 1 February 2006) launched a consultation process in European communication policy in general to address the perceived gap between the EU and its citizens. The Commission is seeking the views of the European institutions, the Member States, local and regional governments, NGOs, stakeholders and the citizens of Europe on how best to connect and communicate. In order to achieve these, the Commission will set up two websites, use Euro barometer surveys and organise five Brussels-based conferences.

independent, if they should be incorporated in a communication policy.

The Rapporteur also believes that the role and functioning of information offices in the Member States should be reviewed; the contacts between the institutions on the basis of the inter-institutional working group on communication should be improved; a consultative body consisting of the European institutions, Member States and experts in the field of communication should be created to serve as advisers and lastly, PRINCE should include more thematic priority areas identified by Parliament, together with the Commission.

In its working document on the White paper, MEP Herrero-Tejedor has asked what would be the consequences for the Lifelong Learning, Youth, Culture, and Citizens for Europe programmes, so far completely

His report is scheduled for adoption in committee on 9 October; vote in plenary is expected on 16 November.

Commission calls for an agenda for citizens

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=9234113>

The Commission has adopted a policy agenda for Europe's citizens as a contribution to the June European Council, based on the messages it has received from *Plan D* and the national debates during the period of reflection. A fuller description of the Commission's assessment of the national debates and its activities under *Plan D* are outlined in an accompanying communication *on Plan D and the period of reflection (COM (2006)0212 of 10 May 2006)*.

The main results of two special Euro barometer surveys conducted in February and March 2006 in the framework of *Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate*, show that comparable living standards, followed by the introduction of the Euro in all Member

States, and a common Constitution are elements of most importance for the future of Europe. According to EU citizens - 24,750 citizens aged 15 and above were surveyed in the EU-25 - expectations for more Europe in relation to e.g. fight against unemployment, protection of social rights and economic growth remain solid.

The special Euro barometer n°251 was realised by *TNS Opinion & Social*; the qualitative study was realised by *Opten*. It consisted of group discussions with three target groups following a discussion guide in the EU-25. Both reports are can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm/.

EU Research and Development

Seventh Research Framework Programme (2007-2013)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5243902>

The Council reached on 29 May an agreement on a general approach on FP7, pending Parliament's opinion. Council deliberations took place on the basis of a partial general agreement reached last November.

MEP Buzek, Rapporteur, presented its draft report on 30 May; vote on the report ((A6-0202/2006 of 1 June 2006) at plenary is

scheduled for 14 June.

Following the inter-institutional agreement on the EU's budget for 2007-2013, a total of € 54.5 billion will be allocated for the FP7.

The FP7 is organised in four programmes: cooperation (with more than € 32 billion); ideas (€ 7.5 billion); capacities (with around € 4.2 billion); and people (around € 5 billion).

Rules for participation of research centres and universities under FP7

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5303012>

On 29 May, the Council reached an agreement on a general approach on the draft regulation laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under FP7 and for the dissemination of research results for 2007-2013.

The rules on participation define conditions, rights and obligations of legal entities wishing to take part in FP7 and establish principles for the use and dissemination of research results.

The Council previously debated the proposal on 13 March, in particular the principles on the conditions for participation in projects, on the evaluation, selection and award process and the rules for dissemination, use and access rights.

Parliament is still due to deliver its opinion. MEP Busquin was appointed as Rapporteur responsible in January; adoption of his report by the ITRE Committee is scheduled for July.

*Co decision Procedure
First Reading*

*Co decision Procedure
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Information Society

1st annual report on i2010, European information society

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=9241783>

COM (2006)0215 and SEC (2006)0604 of 19 May 2006

The present communication on i2010 is the first follow-up to the Spring Council, confirming i2010's key role for the achievement of the Lisbon targets (*see also P6_TA-PROV (2006)0079 of 14 March 2006*). According to the report, the EU Member States need more ambitious plans to get the full benefits from information and communication technologies (ICT) e.g. improve access to broadband Internet connections, facilitate the EU-wide circulation of digital content, free up radio spectrum for new applications, integrate research and innovation and modernise public services.

As regards the emergence of new devices, networks and services, the communication highlights the need to address e.g. the provision of digital copyright protected material at European level, the deployment of digital rights management (DRM) solutions, the need to update consumer and data protection rules or the fight against online distribution of illegal content.

Three messages will continue to underpin i2010 in 2006-2007: urgency, partnership and action. The first steps taken under i2010 include the review of the EU's regulatory framework for e-communications; a new strategy for more coordinated and more efficient spectrum management in the EU; the modernisation of the EU rules for

audiovisual media services without frontiers; and a stronger ICT component in the FP7 as well as in the CIP programme. Next steps by the Commission under i2010 will be a Strategy on a Secure Information Society, expected at the end of May and policy options for the Review 2006, to be presented by mid-June.

In 2006-2007, the Commission will, amongst others, make proposals for the assessment of developments in standardisation and interoperability with regard to mobile TV services; extend the Film Online Initiative to Content Online and present proposals in a communication by late 2006; address trust, privacy and security issues in the communications on cyber crime and spam; issue a communication on research and innovation in ICT, review its standardisation and adopt the work programme; prepare with the Member States the Ministerial Declaration of the Riga Conference on eInclusion; follow up the work on digital literacy: eLearning conference, communication on ICT for education and training to support lifelong learning and innovation; and implement the "Digital Libraries" flagship; propose a Recommendation on digitisation and digital preservation as well as a communication on digital libraries of scientific information.

The i2010 Annual report can be found at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/i2010/index_en.htm

Internal Market

Commission puts forward amended proposal on Services Directive

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=240902>

On 29 May, the Council reached by unanimity, a political agreement on the draft directive on services in the internal market; the common position will be adopted at one of its forthcoming meetings forwarded to Parliament for second reading.

The Council's agreement is based on a

compromise text, closely in line with Parliament's first reading and the Commission's amended proposal. It decided however to modify the Commission's amended proposal to clarify the exact scope of application and the services which are excluded.

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Commission puts forward amended proposal on Services Directive

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=240902>

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The services covered concern a wide variety of activities e.g. services of general economic interest (SGEI). The text also contains a list of services to which the directive will not apply e.g. non-economic services of general interest; e-communications services and networks, and associated facilities and services; audiovisual services, as defined in compromise text, and radio broadcasting; and social services. The Commission adopted on 26 April a follow-up to the White Paper on services of general interest (COM (2004)0374 of 12 May 2004) to identify

and recognise the specific characteristics of social and health services of general interest and to clarify the framework in which they operate and can be modernised (COM (2006)0177).

The Commission will present a report on application of the directive within five years of entry into force, and every three years thereafter, which will address the application of *Article 16 on freedom to provide services* and consider additional measures for matters excluded from its scope.

Internet

Commission seeks to improve network and information security in Europe

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/doc/com2006251.pdf

In a policy document adopted on 31 May (COM (2006)0251), the Commission is promoting greater awareness on a new IT Security Strategy for Europe. A partnership amongst Member States, involving the IT industry, users and ENISA, the European Network and Information Security Agency (<http://www.enisa.eu.int/>), should lead to more trustworthy, secure and reliable information and communication technologies (ICT).

Specific proposals of the Commission include the benchmarking of national policies on network and information security to improve the dialogue between public authorities, to identify best practices and to raise the security awareness of end-users.

On 2 May, the European Court of Justice confirmed that ENISA - established in 2004 with its seat now in Heraklion (Greece), was

directly established (Article 95 of the EC Treaty) and thereby rejected a legal challenge made by the UK. The ECJ judgment (*Case C-217/04 – UK vs. Parliament and Council*) can be found at <http://www.curia.eu.int>.

ENISA will be entrusted to develop an appropriate data collection framework to handle security incidents and measured levels of consumer confidence from all over Europe. It will also be asked to examine the feasibility of a multilingual information sharing and alert system. Finally, Member States and the private sector are invited to play a more proactive and energetic role in enhancing network and information security.

In parallel, the Commission is carrying out a public consultation on the security and privacy implications of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification), which results will present later on this year.

Euro barometer survey 2005 on Safer Internet

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/sip/eurobarometer/index_en.htm

The Euro barometer survey, presented on 2 May, compiles data on the attitude of EU citizens towards illegal and harmful content on the Internet and their knowledge of how to protect their children against it.

The survey, carried out by *TNS Opinion & Social*, was conducted in December 2005

covering the EU-25, candidate and acceding countries.

A first survey carried out at the end of 2003 covered the EU-15; a second survey at the beginning of 2004 covered the EU-10 that joined on 1 May 2004. ...continues in Page 13

Internet

Euro barometer survey 2005 on Safer Internet

...continues from Page 12

Another report was drawn up comparing the 2 series of results.

From 2 May, European parents, teachers and children can get free information on the safe use of Internet through EUROPE DIRECT (free telephone number 00800 6 7 8 9 10 11).

Moreover, a plenary session of the *Safer Internet Forum* will take place in Luxembourg on 21 June to focus on children's use of new

media and blocking access to illegal content: child sexual abuse images (http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/sip/index_en.htm).

Furthermore, a new call for proposals will be launched under the *Safer Internet plus* programme in 2006 (provisional date is end of June; provisional deadline will be end of September).

Trade Policy

Place of supply of services, simplified obligations for businesses, e-commerce

On 5 May, the ECOFIN Council held an exchange of views on three dossiers dealing with VAT arrangements for businesses: a proposal for a directive on the place of supply of services as concerns VAT payments; proposals for two directives and a regulation on simplification of cross-border VAT obligations and refund procedures for businesses; and prolongation of a directive on VAT arrangements for e-commerce. The Council aims at reaching political agreement at its meeting on 7 June.

The first proposal is aimed at changing the place of taxation for VAT for services from

the place where the supplier is located to the place where the customer is located. Those on simplification are aimed at providing for a One-stop Scheme to simplify VAT registration and declaration by businesses in member states where they have no base, as well as rules for refunds of VAT to such businesses and improved administrative cooperation to prevent fraud.

As regards e-commerce, the Commission proposed on 16 May to extend the period of application of the e-commerce Directive to 31 December 2008 or until more permanent wider measures are in place (*see below*).

The European Commission proposes to extend the Directive on e-services

http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/traders/e-commerce/index_en.htm

The European Commission proposed on 16 May to extend the period of application of the e-commerce Directive (in force since 1 July 2003) to 31 December 2008.

Without this extension, the rules for services supplied by electronic means as well as to radio and TV broadcasting services would revert to those prevailing prior to the changes introduced by the Directive. This would mean that EU suppliers would be subject to VAT even for services supplied to clients outside the EU and they would face competition within the EU from suppliers in

third countries that would not be subject to VAT at all.

The temporary provisions contained in the Directive will be given permanent effect when the EU Council of Ministers adopts the Commission's proposals on the place of taxation of services (*P6_TA-PROV (2006)0196 of 16 May 2006*) and on the simplification of VAT obligations, the so-called One-Stop scheme (*COM (2004)0728 of 29 October 2004*). The extension proposed should allow sufficient time for the adoption of these proposals.

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European Parliament Press Service http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index_en.htm
RAPID - Press and Communication Service of the European Commission,
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/welcome.htm>
EUR-Lex, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/>. Since 1 November 2004, EUR-Lex incorporates the CELEX service and provides free access in 20 languages to EU law.
Europa, <http://europa.eu.int/>
Various mailing lists

Calls for Tenders are published in the S series of the OJ as well as in the Tenders Electronic Daily database TED, <http://ted.publications.eu.int/official/> (new dates for the Official Journal Supplement since January 2005). EBLIDA Hot News online 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 e.g. preparatory legislative documents and questions put by Members of Parliament to the Commission and Council.

The C series is available online via EUR-Lex. Please note that the C E edition of the Official Journal, which is only available online, now publishes the explanatory statement for all Commission proposals.

EBLIDA encourages dissemination of our information. However, we would ask that the source be acknowledged. Documents are available at the EBLIDA Secretariat.

About EBLIDA...

EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations. We are an independent umbrella association of national library, information, documentation and archive associations and institutions in Europe.

Subjects on which EBLIDA concentrates are European information society issues, including copyright & licensing, culture & education and EU enlargement. We promote unhindered access to information in the digital age and the role of archives and libraries in achieving this goal.