



June 2006

# EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

## Intellectual Property Rights

### Highlights:

- § Directive 92/100/EEC and Directive 93/98/EEC go under codification, p.1
- § Note from EBLIDA Director, p. 2
- § Lifelong Learning Programme, p. 6

### Directive 92/100/EEC and Directive 93/98/EEC go under codification

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5348062>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5348312>

The European Commission issued in May two proposals aimed at codifying the Council Directive *93/98/EEC of 29 October 1993* harmonising the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights (COM (2006)0219 of 19 May 2006) and the Council Directive *92/100/EEC of 19 November 1992* on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property (COM (2006)0226 of 22 May 2006).

This is being done in accordance with EU provisions for the simplification and clarification of EU law given that both Directives have been subject to numerous amendments. The new Directives will supersede the various acts incorporated in them whilst fully preserving the content of the acts being codified. Codification does no

more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

The codification proposals were drawn up on the basis of a preliminary consolidation, in all official languages, of both Directives and the instruments amending them, carried out by the *Office for Official Publications of the European Communities*, by means of a data-processing system. Where the Articles have been given new numbers, the correlation between the old and the new numbers is shown in a table annexed to the codified versions.

Both documents have been forwarded to Council and Parliament, under co decision procedure. They can be found at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>.

### Open Consultation on “Copyright levies in a converging world”

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/copyright/levy\\_reform/index\\_en.htm#060607](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/levy_reform/index_en.htm#060607)

A 'copyright levy' is a form of indirect remuneration for right holders based on the premise that an act of private copying cannot be licensed for practical purposes by the relevant right holders. Copyright levy reform is included in the Commission Work Programme for 2006 (expected date of adoption of the proposal on fair compensation for private copying is autumn 2006). In October 2004, the Commission consulted Member States on the scope of the private copying exception and existing systems of remuneration.

A questionnaire on “Copyright levies in a converging world” ([http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/copyright/docs/levy\\_reform/stakeholder\\_consulta](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/docs/levy_reform/stakeholder_consulta)

[tion\\_en.pdf](#)) has been submitted for public consultation, which aims at ensuring that later Commission proposals are technically viable, practically workable and based on a bottom-up approach. Stakeholders and Member States already provided valuable input in the process and this additional follow-up consultation serves the dual purpose to help to further improve the quality of the policy outcome and at the same time enhancing the involvement of interested parties and the public at large.

This additional follow-up consultation focuses on a series of salient points and will run from **6 June through 14 July 2006**.

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## Lobbying for archives and libraries

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### Note from EBLIDA Director

From the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> June delegates from WIPO (<http://www.wipo.int>) members states, IGOs and NGOs met in Geneva to discuss the Provisional Committee on Proposals Related to a WIPO Development Agenda (PCDA) and its 111 proposals for how best to use and implement Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for development.

The range of proposals covers a broad series of issues and were identified and clustered into six subject headings:

- A) Technical assistance and capacity building;
- B) Norm-setting, flexibilities, public policy and public domain;
- C) Technology transfer, ICT and access to knowledge;
- D) Assessments, evaluation and impact studies;
- E) Institutional matters including mandate and governance; and
- F) Other issues.

EBLIDA together with IFLA (<http://www.ifla.org/>) and EIFL (<http://www.eifl.net/>) made a statement in writing (see [http://www.eblida.org/position/WIPO\\_Development\\_IFLA-EIFL-EBLIDA\\_June06.doc](http://www.eblida.org/position/WIPO_Development_IFLA-EIFL-EBLIDA_June06.doc)) and a short oral intervention addressing the issues of the PCDA which we feel are of utmost importance to libraries of developing as well as developed countries.

Our statement outlines the importance of libraries as partners for the WIPO Partnership Office to enable developing countries to compete in the knowledge economy. Economic studies at, amongst others, the British Library

(<http://www.bl.uk/>) confirms that libraries add economic value to society, above and beyond the funding they receive. This is an important point to make when assessing investment for libraries as a pre-requisite for establishing the knowledge economy.

While digital technology in principle opens up for a wider dissemination of knowledge than in the print era technical protection measures (TPM) and extended terms of copyright and protection are threatening knowledge available in the public domain and in this way reducing the amount of information available for research and creation.

Our statement also recommended that WIPO encourage awareness of Open Access (OA) models amongst its members. It is our belief that the principle of OA is a viable mechanism for the effective flow and use of technical and scientific information.

At the time of writing it is still unclear what the outcome will be of this WIPO meeting on the PCDA. There were many differing opinions as to how to advance the process and not least the question of whether some proposals should be eliminated at this stage of the agenda. Whatever happens, EBLIDA believes that the PCDA is important for libraries in Europe as IPR in the digital era is truly a global issue.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all EBLIDA members a pleasant summer.

*Andrew Cranfield*  
*Director*

## Audiovisual

### Joint Public Hearing on the Audiovisual Media Services Directive

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/cult/hearings/20060601/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/cult/hearings/20060601/default_en.htm)

Six Parliamentary Committees (CULT, ITRE, IMCO, ECON, LIBE and FEMM) co-organised a public hearing on 1 and 2 June in Brussels to hear different views on the scope and content of a proposed update to the Television without Frontiers directive. The organisation and the programme of the hearing were coordinated by an *ad hoc Working Group* composed by the Rapporteurs responsible for the revision of the directive in the above mentioned committees. The Culture Committee is due to vote on Ms Hieronymi's draft co-decision report in October, with a plenary first reading due in November or December.

Speakers were invited to intervene in the debate on three different dimensions: the Directive scope, its economic aspects

(advertisement, product placement, copyrights, jurisdiction and the country of origin principle) and its non-economic aspects (protection of human dignity and of minors, promotion of pluralism and of cultural diversity).

BEUC, the European Consumers' Organisation (<http://www.beuc.org/>), has launched a campaign against product placement on TV, which the Commission is to disallow only in TV news and children's programmes.

The poster, programme, questions for experts, interventions, non-papers of the European Commission and position papers already submitted are all available at the website above.

## Consumer Protection

### Simplified and accelerated settlement of small claims litigation

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5238222>

COM (2005)0087 of 15 March 2005

On 1 June, JHA ministers reached general agreement on a Regulation establishing a European small claims procedure, which aims at simplifying litigation concerning small claims in cross-border cases. It will also eliminate the intermediate measures necessary to enable recognition and enforcement of judgments given in one Member State in a European Small Claims Procedure in other Member States.

It will apply, in civil and commercial matters, whatever the nature of the court or tribunal, where the value of a claim does not exceed €

2,000 at the time the procedure is initiated, excluding all interest, expenses and outlays; it will not apply to matters concerning e.g. the status or legal capacity of natural persons and maintenance obligations; arbitration; violations of privacy and rights relating to personality, including defamation.

In the context of the internal market, individuals and businesses will benefit from this instrument when reclaiming smaller debts in a cross-border context.

The Legal Affairs Committee (MEP Mayer) is due to adopt its report on 11 September; plenary vote is scheduled for 23 October.

### The Rome Convention on the law applicable to contractual obligations

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5301232>

COM (2005)0650 of 15 December 2005

Pending Parliament's opinion, JHA ministers ratified on 1 June the political agreement on non-contractual obligations, **Rome II**. Political agreement on the articles of this draft Regulation was already reached on 28 April.

After finalisation of the text, the Council will adopt its Common Position and forward it to Parliament for a second reading.

This Regulation aims at extending the harmonisation of private international law in civil and commercial matters.

*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

## Consumer Protection

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### Protection of personal data

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5279032>

The European Parliament decided on 14 June to postpone a report drafted by MEP ROURE (*P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0258 of 14 June 2006*) endorsing the decision of the Legal Affairs Committee. Although MEPs believe the proposal will bring more uniformity and consistency to the EU's data protection principles, they decided to wait until the Council meets again in July, hoping the Finnish Presidency will be more willing to take into account Parliament's demands.

Even though the final vote was postponed, Parliament voted through all the 60 amendments tabled, approving them to make clear their support to the position of Rapporteur and committee members. In general, the amendments limit the use and

access to personal data to the very necessary cases and when there is a real threat to public security.

The Commission proposal responds to an old claim from the Parliament, which calls for standards on data protection in the context of judicial and police cooperation.

The issue is particularly relevant now that the European Court of Justice decided to annul existing agreements between the EU and US government on the transfer of personal data of air passengers flying into the US. It is a priority for the Parliament to push for a quick adoption of this draft decision by the Council, which would affect future agreements with the USA.

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*Consultation Procedure*

## Cooperation with Third Countries

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### EU-Australia cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Training

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu\\_others/australia/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu_others/australia/index_en.html)

Four projects have been selected under the EU-Australia pilot cooperation programme for 2005-2006: The Global Citizenship project (April 2006 – April 2009); Network of Undergraduate Degrees in Ethics, Human Rights and Institutions (1 March 2006 – 28 February 2009); Building an interdisciplinary collaborative programme in Business, Environment, Science and Technology (2006-2009); and Governance and Security: Challenges to Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (30 April 2006 - 31 July 2009).

The projects will bring together Canadian and European universities with educational and research expertise in a wide range of disciplines e.g. globalisation studies, international relations, development, languages, environment, technology and business, criminology or law.

Details and description of the projects can be found at

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu\\_others/australia/doc/sele05.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu_others/australia/doc/sele05.pdf).

### EC/Canada cooperation in higher education, training and youth

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-canada/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-canada/index_en.html)

COM (2006)0274 of 7 June 2006

Ján Figel, European Commissioner for Education, met Canadian authorities from 4 to 6 June to reinforce and renew Europe-Canada cooperation in higher education and vocational training, which has involved over 200 institutions and 2,000 students since it was launched in 1995.

The programme is now up for renewal

[www.eblida.org](http://www.eblida.org)

(2006-2013). Its core activities are joint Curriculum development and student exchanges in a wide range of disciplines. The envisaged actions will support some 210 projects over an eight year period (details can be found under point 8 of the Financial Statement).

Over 4,430 EU and Canadian people will participate in mobility activities over the duration of the agreement.

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*Consultation Procedure*

### **EU-US Agreement for cooperation in higher education and vocational training** [http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external\\_relations/us/sum06\\_06/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/us/sum06_06/index.htm)

On 21 June, at the EU-US summit in Vienna, a new eight-year education agreement was signed between the two parties, renewing their long-standing cooperation programme in **higher education and vocational training**. The new agreement will usher in innovative Transatlantic Degree programmes, promote exchanges of students, teachers and other professionals, strengthen the Schuman-Fulbright Programme and encourage greater institutional collaboration in tertiary education.

The Commission plans to allocate € 45m (2006-2013) with a target of 6,000 EU and

US persons participating in mobility activities; specifically foreseen are: Joint Consortia Projects; Excellence Mobility Projects; Policy-oriented measures (dialogue on recognition of qualifications and accreditations); and Schuman-Fulbright Programme. Further information can be found at  
[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/eu-usa/index_en.html).

In addition, the Council endorsed on 12 June an EU-US action strategy for the **enforcement of intellectual property rights**, which was submitted to the EU-US summit in Vienna on 21 June.

### **Amendments to the EEA Agreement**

The Council approved on 1 June two draft Decisions of the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Committee amending the EEA Agreement concerning cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms: a Decision aimed at extending cooperation in the field of the implementation and

development of the internal market and a Decision aimed at extending cooperation through the multi annual programme for the dissemination of good practices and monitoring of the take-up of ICT for the year 2006.

### **G-8 Ministerial Meeting on Education**

<http://en.g8russia.ru/>

The Ministers of Education of the G-8 met in Moscow on 1 and 2 June to discuss the development of education in the innovation society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and assess the availability of education at all levels; the progress made on the programme of lifelong learning; the development of the UN “*Education for All*” programme, and expansion of the educational system to integrate immigrants into society.

The Bologna Process (<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/>) and the European Qualifications Framework were also on the agenda. A statement on the results can be found at <http://en.g8russia.ru/news/20060602/1151807.html>. Conclusions will be forwarded to Heads of Government at the G8 Summit to be held in Saint Petersburg from 15 to 17 July.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

### **Open Consultation on “Copyright levies in a converging world”**

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/copyright/levy\\_reform/index\\_en.htm#060607](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/levy_reform/index_en.htm#060607)

... continues from Page 1

Copying of music for private use is allowed in most European countries, which add a levy to the cost of items which are likely to be used to make private copies so that the copyright holder can receive some compensation.

Some nations already charge copyright levies on mobile phones and printers, as well as blank discs and DVD writers. Computers are also being levied, since they are capable of and used for the copying of copyrighted material.

## Culture

### European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008)

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

COM (2005)0467 of 5 October 2005

The European Parliament adopted on 1 June a Resolution drafted by MEP HENNICOT-SCHOEPGES (*P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0234 of 1 June 2006*) and made some amendments to the Commission's proposal. The financial framework remains unchanged; the financial resources dedicated to information and promotion campaigns shall not exceed 20% of the overall budget. Parliament inserted a clause stating that preparatory action shall be limited to 30% of the overall budget.

A prize for intercultural dialogue should be awarded to a youth project carried out as

part of Community programmes e.g. Socrates, Youth and Culture. Moreover, the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue should be concluded with an Intercultural Forum at Parliament bringing together civil society and political and religious representatives.

The report was adopted with 548 votes in favour, 62 against and with 22 abstentions. A small majority of MEPs is pressing for dialogue between religions to be the main topic of the year's events.

The Resolution is now awaiting Council's opinion.

*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

### Public Hearing on Culture 2000

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/hearings/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/hearings/default_en.htm)

The CULT Committee held on 30 May a public hearing on lessons from the implementation of the Culture 2000 Programme. Issues discussed were the assessment of participation; its European and cultural added value; and anticipation of the new Culture 2007-2013 Programme e.g.

further improvements (objectives and achievements, selection, financing, contracts, simplification of procedures, etc).

The programme, CVs from speakers and contributions can be consulted at the website above.

## Education

### Lifelong Learning Programme

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

Following the agreement on the EU's financial framework for 2007-2013, the Council reached on 27 June a political agreement on the draft Decision establishing the Lifelong Learning programme. The text agreed will be adopted as a common position at a forthcoming Council meeting and sent to Parliament for a second reading (vote at plenary is scheduled for 14 November).

The new programme will comprise COMENIUS; Erasmus; Leonardo da Vinci and GRUNDTVIG. It will also include a "transversal" programme incorporating four key activities (policy development, language learning, innovative approaches and

dissemination of project results), plus a Jean Monnet programme to support action related to European integration and European institutions and associations.

The new programme aims at both contributing through lifelong learning to the development of the Community as an advanced knowledge society and at fostering interaction, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the Community, with the aim of becoming a world quality reference.

The financial envelope allocated to the programme is set at € 6 200 million.

*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

### The Commission details its plan for a European Institute of Technology

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eit/index_en.html)

*COM (2006)0276 of 8 June 2006*

Following consultation, the Commission adopted on 8 June a Communication fleshing out its plan for the establishment of a European Institute of Technology (EIT), which both clarifies its proposal [*COM (2006)0077 of 22 February 2006*] and identifies issues that must be addressed next.

After the summer, the Commission shall present an impact assessment for the EIT, which will be followed by a formal proposal outlining, amongst others, criteria for the location of the Governing Board and detail the budget for the Institute.

The EIT Governing Board will identify strategic scientific challenges in interdisciplinary areas and then, on a competitive basis, select and support “Knowledge Communities” to carry out the

tasks related to research, education and innovation in these areas.

A draft legal instrument establishing the EIT is expected this autumn. Subsequently, the Governing Board could be appointed in early 2009; the identification of the first “Knowledge Communities” should then be done by 2009, so they start their activities for the academic year 2009-2010.

These “Knowledge Communities” will be integrated partnerships, consisting of teams put together by universities, research organisations and industry. Maximum flexibility should be given to the Knowledge Communities with regard to their own organisational structure.

See *MEMO/06/233 of 8 June 2006 (Frequently Asked Questions)*

### Over 1,600 graduates to study and teach in Europe’s universities

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html)

The European Commission has selected, for the 2006-2007 academic year, 1,377 students and 231 university teachers to participate in the **Erasmus Mundus** programme. There are currently 57 courses to choose from, covering from engineering and technology to law and the humanities. Nearly € 52 million will be devoted to fund scholars from all over the world and about € 2.5 million will be used to fund the university teachers. The funds will be managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

The 741 students selected come from 92 different countries, with China (81), Brazil (43), Russia (36), India (31), USA (28), Malaysia (25), and Mexico (24) ranking in the first places. The 636 additional students receiving scholarships under the “Asian Windows” come mainly from India (288), China (99), Thailand (53), Pakistan (42), Malaysia (32) and Vietnam (29).

Further information can be found on the Erasmus Mundus website.

### EU citizens need support to embrace cultural and linguistic diversity

The importance of multilingualism must be emphasised and the role of minority languages and migrant cultures enhanced to promote a multilingual society, states an opinion drafted by Rapporteur Seamus MURRAY, member of Meath County Council (UEN-EA/IE) and adopted on 14 June by the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The report highlights the importance of the role played by local and regional authority in implementing a policy to promote

multilingualism.

The Councillor calls for a reinforced effort by the EU institutions to increase awareness of multilingualism and promote actions at all levels across the EU. His report, a response to the Commission’s new framework strategy for Multilingualism (<http://europa.eu/languages/servlets/Doc?id=913>), encourages the use of different languages as a means of bridging the gap between the EU and its citizens.



## Enlargement

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### European Council conclusions on Bulgaria and Romania

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/report\\_2006/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/enlargement/report_2006/index.htm)

The European Council confirmed on 16 June that it is the Union's common objective to welcome **Bulgaria** and **Romania** in January 2007 as members of the Union if they are ready. The European Council calls on Bulgaria and Romania to rigorously step up their efforts to tackle without delay the remaining issues of concern as mentioned in the Commission's Monitoring Reports of 16 May 2006.

The European Council welcomed the Commission's plan to present its next monitoring reports by early October at the latest and encouraged Member States to complete the ratification of the Accession Treaty on time. *See also* the European Parliament Resolution on the accession of Bulgaria and Romania (*P6\_TA-PROV*

(2006)0262 of 14 June 2006).

Furthermore, the European Court of Auditors just published its special report on **PHARE** investment projects in Bulgaria and Romania. According to the report, PHARE support for the two projects led by international financial institutions was problematic. While ex-ante control proved to be effective, the Court criticises the Commission's overall management of investment projects.

The *Special Report no 4/2006*, as adopted by the Court of Auditors, is available at [http://www.eca.europa.eu/audit\\_reports/special\\_reports/docs/2006/rs04\\_06en.pdf](http://www.eca.europa.eu/audit_reports/special_reports/docs/2006/rs04_06en.pdf) and will shortly be published in the C series of the OJ of the European Union.

### Enlargement, accession negotiations with Croatia and Turkey

On 12 June, the Council agreed, without discussion, on an EU common position on the accession conference with **Croatia**, providing for both the opening and the provisional closure of the Science and Research chapter of the accession negotiations.

During the Accession Conference, the EU foreign ministers also decided to open and provisionally close the chapter on Science

and Research with **Turkey**. Progress in the negotiations will depend not only on progress in the different chapters, but first and foremost on the pace of reforms. While there has been some legislative progress, on the ground the implementation of reforms remains uneven.

The Commission will continue to monitor closely the situation and review progress in its next report to be adopted in the autumn.

## EU Information Policy

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### EESC Hearing on the European Transparency Initiative

[http://www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/index\\_en.asp](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/index_en.asp)

As part of the public consultation which started with the publication on 3 May of a Green Paper on the European Transparency Initiative, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is organising on 11 July, a hearing of the parties concerned - European civil society organisations, consultancies, business sector lobby groups, law firms and think tanks - to focus on two key questions related to enhancing transparency in the activities of civil society organisations and

other interest groups: creating a system for registering civil society organisations and other interest groups, and drawing up a joint code of conduct.

The results of this hearing, as well as those of the public consultation, will be fed into the Commission's work on the specific measures, which will follow the Green Paper, to improve transparency in the European Union.

## EU Information Policy

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### Future of EU Communication Policy

Michel Delebarre, President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), Margot Wallström and Rapporteur Mercedes Bresso, President of Piedmont, Italy, held on 15 June a press conference following the adoption of the Bresso Report in response to the Commission's Plan D and White Paper on Communication policy. The paper argues that the Union must increasingly think local if it is to overcome the democratic deficit which has left citizens as "passive or only occasional observers" of the EU political process. The CoR report states that local and regional authorities should play a much greater role in the development and implementation of EU communication strategy.

Furthermore, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Hungarian Economic and Social Council jointly held a Forum on "Bridging the Gap: how to bring Europe and its citizens closer together?" in Budapest on 9 and 10 June. The recommendations from the working groups will contribute to the consultation processes. Further information on the results of the Forum is available at [http://eesc.europa.eu/stakeholders\\_forum/09\\_06\\_2006/index\\_en.asp](http://eesc.europa.eu/stakeholders_forum/09_06_2006/index_en.asp).

The European Parliament in turn, will present its own-initiative report to plenary in November (*Rapporteur, MEP Herero-Tejedor*).

### European Council conclusions on Transparency

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/90112.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/90112.pdf)

Based on the Seville European Council conclusions (2002) and the Council's Rules of Procedure, the transparency procedures were reinforced through a series of specific measures decided by the Council in December 2005. To complete these measures, the European Council adopted on 15 and 16 June an overall policy on Transparency, which further opens up the work of the Council by making all Co decision debates in the Council public.

to the public. The Council's first deliberations on legislative acts other than those adopted by *Co decision*, which given their importance are presented orally by the Commission in a Council session, shall be open to the public. Moreover, the Council shall regularly hold public debates on important issues affecting the interests of the Union and its citizens.

According to the text, all Council deliberations on legislative acts to be adopted by *Co decision* shall be open to the public as shall the votes and the explanation of votes by Council Members. The Council or COREPER may decide in individual cases that a given deliberation should not be open

The incoming Presidency is invited, together with the General Secretariat of the Council, to develop new means of giving more publicity to public deliberations. All citizens can access Council documents under the conditions laid down by the texts in force (*Regulation no 1049/2001*); a public register of Council documents is available at <http://www.consilium.europa.eu>.

## EU Research and Development

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### A brave new world for research partnerships

<http://www.ist-world.org/>

A new portal, called 'IST World', has been created to stimulate collaboration between researchers, organisations and projects. The portal will be particularly handy for newcomers to the EU research scene, say the developers.

IST World is drawing up a business plan to ensure the portal lives long after the 2007 closure of the EU-funded phase of the project. It aims at being the number one in the research partnership business.

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*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

### Seventh Research Framework Programme (2007-2013)

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

The European Parliament decided on 15 June to postpone the adoption of the BUZEK report (*P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0265 of 15 June 2006*) on the FP7 and made some amendments to the Commission's proposal.

As regards budget, Parliament passed an amendment to bring the budget of the programme into line with the agreement on the Financial Perspective: the FP7 will have a budget of € 50, 862 million (compared to the € 72, 726 million originally proposed by the Commission). This is a substantial increase compared to the FP6. They also modified the allocation of these funds among the different parts of the specific programmes. There are eleven themes determined for EU action, instead of nine as proposed by the Commission.

In addition, Parliament emphasised the role of SMEs and adopted other amendments to support young researchers. Referring to the European Research Council (ERC),

Parliament said that the ERC should initially be set up as an Executive Agency.

As regards its review, Parliament wants the Commission to carry out at least two interim evaluations, one in 2009 and the other in 2011 based on empirical methodologies.

In May, Research ministers approved a general approach in line with that of the Commission; to a greater or lesser extent, the stances adopted by both institutions have ended up fairly similar, which guarantees that the negotiations planned for July will go well and a definitive agreement can be expected no later than September.

The main difference lies in the way they would split the € 300 million granted as a result of the negotiations on the Financial Perspective (to boost People to the detriment of Capabilities). The proposed programme is now awaiting Council's opinion.

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*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

### Agreement on the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5243412>

The European Parliament adopted on 1 June a resolution drafted by MEP CHATZIMARKAKIS (*P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0230 of 1 June 2006*) on the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and adopted a package of 145 compromise clauses that were agreed with the Council and Commission in May. As part of the deal reached with Council, the budget for the programme, running from 2007 to 2013, will be reduced from the Commission's original proposal of € 4 212.6 million to € 3 196 million. This amount, however, is far more than the European Council's position of 16 December 2005 which included a reduction of more than 50 %.

CIP, which will complement other EU actions e.g. cohesion and research activities, and the EU programme for **lifelong learning**, is composed of three specific programmes: the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme e.g. Euro Info

Centres, Innovation Relay centres, will have a budget of € 2.17; the Intelligent Energy-Europe Programme € 730 million and the ICT Policy Support Programme, which will receive a budget of € 730 million. The latter will include support for pilot actions using innovative ICT-based services of public interest; the development of digital content with a special emphasis on multilingualism and cultural diversity and the security of ICT and its applications.

Final adoption in Council will follow in the coming weeks. After its entry into force, the Commission will publish a User Manual establishing a clear framework of general principles for the participation of beneficiaries in the Framework Programme.

For further information visit [http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/cip/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm); see also *IP/06/716* and *MEMO/06/226 of 1 June 2006* at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

## Information Society

### EU ministers commit to an inclusive and barrier-free information society *IP/06/769 and MEMO/06/237 of 12 June 2006*

By signing the **Riga Ministerial Declaration** on 12 June, Ministers called upon the European Commission and other stakeholders to work together to promote an inclusive information society over the coming years. The Commission is preparing a set of specific initiatives, which will form part of a wider EU Initiative on e-Inclusion planned for 2008 as part of "i2010"; the policy framework for this will be presented by a Communication in 2007.

The Riga Ministerial Declaration commits the 34 signing countries to a number of specific targets by 2010:

§ halving the gap in Internet usage by groups at risk of exclusion e.g. older people, people with disabilities, and unemployed persons;

- § Boosting broadband coverage in Europe to at least 90%; the Commission has proposed to strengthen national broadband strategies that should set clear targets and reflect regional needs;
- § Ensuring that all public websites are accessible;
- § Assessing the need for legislative measures in the field of e-Accessibility;
- § Making recommendations on accessibility standards and common approaches by 2007, which could become mandatory in public procurement by 2010; and
- § Putting in place by 2008 actions in the field of digital literacy and skills to reduce gaps for groups at risk of exclusion by half in 2010.

The Commission will already propose during 2006 actions on ICT and the Ageing Society.

### New Task Force on ICT Sector competitiveness and ICT uptake

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/taskforce.htm>

Meeting for the first time on 6 June, the new ICT Task Force launched by the Commission and composed of high-level representatives of the ICT industry and of civil society, tackled barriers to competition and the competitiveness of the ICT sector. The meeting kicked off a 5-month debate on challenges to ICT producers and users, in particular on the challenges and opportunities created by the convergence of digital networks, content and devices.

The ICT Task Force will address: ICT uptake; innovation in R&D; manufacturing and services; SMEs and entrepreneurship; skills and employability; and IPR for competitiveness and innovation. The latter working group will assess the contributions that IP makes to Europe's economies; the

link between IP, R&D and innovation; the scope, causes and impact of piracy; the importance of standards and ICT interoperability.

All interested parties are invited to take part in the debate via online contributions. Of particular interest are recommendations that strengthen links and synergies between policies addressing Better Regulation, R&D, innovation, education and training for firms and the business environment.

The ICT Task Force will recommend possible policy responses in a report to be delivered to the Commission by the end of the year (a meeting to validate overall final report and recommendations is scheduled for 27 November).

### WSIS, World Summit on the Information Society

<http://www.itu.int/wsisis/>

The Commission presented to the Council on 8 June its communication on the Follow-up of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), held in Tunis on 16-18 November 2005 (*COM*

*(2006)0181 of 27 April 2006*). The communication contains an assessment of the principal summit results, indicates the EU priorities and makes proposals as to how the EU can help follow-up the WSIS process.

## Internet

### Network and Information Security

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=9248023>

On 8 June, the Council held an exchange of views on the main network and information security policy priorities (*COM (2006)0251 and SEC (2006)0656*): trust through increased awareness among businesses and consumers; electronic identification; data security and data protection; and enhance cooperation, in particular as regards common security standards.

The Commission is promoting greater awareness on a new IT Security Strategy for Europe and will report in the middle of 2007 to Council and Parliament on the activities launched; the initial findings and the state of play of individual initiatives, including those

of ENISA, Member States and in the private sector. If appropriate, it will propose a Recommendation on network and information security.

The Finnish Presidency will organise the Annual European Information Society Conference in September 2006, which will address trust and security in the fast-changing technical environment. Moreover, a Council Resolution on network and information security is to be adopted in December 2006, endorsing the future policy orientations, priorities and tools for tackling security challenges within the information society.

## Telecommunications

### Commission plans to build a single market for services that use radio spectrum

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/policy/ecomm/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/policy/ecomm/index_en.htm)

The Commission launched on 29 June a public consultation on policy options for updating the EU's regulatory framework for e-communications, which include fixed voice telephony, mobile communications and broadband. The four documents being published are a Commission report (*COM (2006)0334*) on the effectiveness of the current rules governing e-Communications in Europe

([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecomm/doc/info\\_centre/public\\_consult/review/com334\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/doc/info_centre/public_consult/review/com334_en.pdf)); an Impact Assessment (*SEC (2006)0816*) of various policy options for the future

([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecomm/doc/info\\_centre/public\\_consult/review/impactassessment\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/doc/info_centre/public_consult/review/impactassessment_final.pdf)); a Working Document on proposed changes to the directives (*SEC (2006)0817*)

([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecomm/doc/info\\_centre/public\\_consult/review/staffworkingdocument\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/doc/info_centre/public_consult/review/staffworkingdocument_final.pdf)) and a draft revision of the Recommendation on Relevant Markets together with an explanatory memorandum (*SEC (2006)0837*) ([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecomm/tomorrow/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecomm/tomorrow/index_en.htm)).

Reporting on the functioning of the framework, the Commission proposes to phase out *ex-ante regulation* in at least 6 of the existing 18 telecoms market segments, including those for national and international calls. For those markets where competition is not yet effective e.g. broadband supply, the Commission wants EU rules applied more effectively.

The Communication will undergo public consultation until **the end of October 2006**; then legislative measures to Parliament and Council will follow at the end of 2006. Before these come into effect, they need to complete the legislative procedure and be transposed into the national laws of Member States, which is expected for completion by 2009 or 2010, except for the revised Recommendation on Relevant Markets, scheduled for adoption and entry into force in the first quarter of 2007. National regulators must then begin to apply the new recommendation.

The Council held on 8 June a policy debate on future challenges.

## Trade Policy

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### Mandelson calls for progress in WTO services negotiations

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index_en.htm)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson met on 27 June with representatives from the European Services Forum (ESF), who urged him to continue to push for an ambitious agreement in the negotiations on trade in services that are part of the WTO Doha Round. In turn, WTO negotiators met in Geneva from 28 June to push forward negotiations and find an agreement on key 'modalities' for reducing agricultural subsidies and industrial and farm tariffs before the end of July.

Commissioner Mandelson invited some 20 Ministers for an informal stock-taking on services negotiations on 1 July, which should enable to assess the desired and realistic level of ambition for negotiations in this area. Developed and developing country WTO partners launched collective market access requests in several services sectors on 28 February in Geneva, which marked the beginning of the 'plurilateral' negotiations in services as agreed at last December's WTO Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong.

### VAT arrangements for businesses: broadcasting services and e-commerce

On 7 June, the ECOFIN Council agreed on renewal of VAT arrangements for e-commerce from 1 July until 31 December 2006 and to continue work on the other elements of a package of VAT measures to reach a global agreement by the end of the year.

The e-commerce arrangements (*provided for in directive 2002/38/EC*) require the levying of VAT on the provision of broadcasting services and certain electronically-supplied services from third countries. The final text of the directive renewing these arrangements was adopted on 27 June. Final agreement on a package of measures aimed at simplifying VAT arrangements for businesses is expected by the end of the year. They are a draft directive on the place of supply of services; draft conclusions on proposals for two directives and a regulation on simplification of cross-border VAT

obligations and refund procedures for businesses; and a proposal for a directive on renewal of VAT arrangements for e-commerce (*COM (2006)0210 of 15 May 2006*).

The proposals on simplification are aimed at creating a "one-stop" scheme to simplify registration and declaration of VAT by businesses in member states where they have no base.

Furthermore, the Council adopted on 27 June a Resolution on a code of conduct on transfer pricing documentation for associated enterprises in the EU, which aims at providing EU member states and taxpayers with an instrument for the implementation of standardised and partially centralised transfer pricing documentation in the EU, thus simplifying transfer pricing requirements for cross-border activities.

## Youth Policy

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### "Youth in action" programme for 2007-2013

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5190212>

*COM (2006)0228 and COM (2006)0239 of 24 May 2006*

Following the agreement on the EU's financial framework for 2007-2013 in May, the Council reached on 27 June a political agreement on the draft Decision establishing the "Youth in action" programme (2007-

2013). The text agreed will be adopted as a common position at a forthcoming Council meeting and sent to Parliament for a second reading; vote at plenary (second reading) is scheduled for 14 November.

The financial envelope allocated to the programme amounts to € 785 million.

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*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

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## Information sources used include

Bulletin Quotidien Europe  
Council Press Office Newsroom, <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>  
European Parliament Press Service [http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index\\_en.htm](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.

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