



July-August 2006

# EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

## Highlights:

- § Member States to contribute to the European Digital Library, p.1
- § Note from EBLIDA Director, p. 2
- § Creation of a European Qualifications Framework, p. 7

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## Audiovisual Policy

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### Public consultation on Content Online

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/other\\_actions/content\\_online/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/other_actions/content_online/index_en.htm)

The European Commission launched on 28 July a public consultation on ways to stimulate the growth of a true EU single market for online digital content e.g. films, music and games to encourage the development of innovative business models and to promote the cross-border delivery of diverse online content services. It also aims at identifying stakeholder views on self-

regulatory initiatives such as the Film Online Charter, to assess whether the initiative could be used as a model for similar initiatives in other online content sectors, and to evaluate whether regulatory measures at EU level are required to ensure the completion of a true EU market for online content without borders.

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## Information Society

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### Member States to contribute to the European Digital Library

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm)

The European Commission adopted on 24 August a Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation urging Member States to set up large-scale digitisation facilities, to accelerate the process of getting Europe's cultural heritage online via the European Digital Library. It aims at bringing out the full economic and cultural potential of Europe's cultural and scientific heritage through the Internet and calls on Member States to act in various areas, ranging from copyright questions to the systematic preservation of digital content to ensure long term access to the material.

The measures put forward should lead to a more coordinated approach in the Member States to key issues for digitisation, online accessibility and digital preservation, and help create a multilingual common access point to Europe's distributed digital cultural heritage. They come on top of the financial contribution that the Commission already has set aside for the digital libraries initiative in the EU's Research and Development

programmes and in the eContent plus programme. The Commission will co-finance amongst other things a network of centres of competence on digitisation and digital preservation. Europe's libraries, museums and archives are taking the lead in a range of projects starting this year which will add to the building blocks for the European digital library.

The Recommendation was published in the Official Journal of the EU *L 236, p. 28 of 31 August 2006*, available at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOIndex.do?ihmlang=en>. See also *IP/06/1124* and *MEMO/06/311 of 25 August 2006* at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

The European Digital Library is a flagship project of the i2010 initiative ([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm)).

The European Library Portal, <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/index.htm>.

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## Note from EBLIDA Director

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### The European Transparency Initiative

<http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eti/index.htm>

In May of this year the European Commission published a Green Paper regarding the European Transparency Initiative as part of the strategic objective to *widen opportunities for stakeholders to participate actively in EU policy-shaping*

EBLIDA welcomes this initiative and has responded with our remarks to questions set out in the Green Paper (<http://www.eblida.org/position/index.htm#Communication>). In our opinion the targeted areas, including transparency and interest representation and application of the minimum standards for consultation, represent an important opening up to public scrutiny of the lobbying process and those involved in it. The importance of establishing a level playing field for lobbyists will in all probability be helped by greater transparency, aiding NGO's such as EBLIDA to bring expertise to the European decision-making process on issues which are of importance to the library, archive and information community.

The Commission regards lobbying as a legitimate part of the democratic process and therefore it is important to create a basic framework for the relationship between the EU and lobbyists. Lobbyists can bring important issues and expertise to the attention of the European institutions, but this must be in an open and transparent way. Only in this way can the legitimacy of lobby organizations be preserved. It must be clear which interests they represent and how inclusive that representation is. EBLIDA with roughly 150 members is not a large organization if measured in numbers, but does represent a large proportion of national library organizations.

The Green paper also proposes a web-based voluntary registration system for all interest

groups and lobbyists and in return will alert relevant parties to consultations in specific subject areas. Applicants would also have to subscribe to a code of conduct and in this way the whole area of lobbying becomes more transparent to the general public.

Because lobbying is a many faceted creature, it is not always viewed as a positive part of the legislative and decision-making process. It can be hard to determine how and in what way lobbying activities play their part – and this can hold true for the parliamentarians, the public and the lobbyists themselves. By opening up, all stakeholders should benefit and we can only agree with the Commission that “with better involvement comes greater responsibility”.

From the 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> August the IFLA World Congress was held in Seoul, Korea. Given the problems that face the USA and South Korea in reaching a free trade agreement, Heeseob Nam's paper (<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/089-Nam-en.pdf>), addressing copyright issues in the proposed FTA was of particular interest. Once again we see that the balance between “protection” and “exceptions and limitations” leans towards protectionism and in the case of South Korea, as in many other countries, does not necessarily favour the creative environment in the country in question but rather the interests of large multi-national corporations based in the USA. With Intellectual Property becoming an ever increasing economic factor, the dangers of bilateral agreements (and the USA's policy of including IP protection in FTA agreements) rather than multilateral agreements is becoming ever clearer.

**Andrew Cranfield**  
*Director*

## Audiovisual Policy

### Public consultation on Content Online

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/other\\_actions/content\\_online/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/other_actions/content_online/index_en.htm)

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The Commission is also keen to determine how European technologies and devices can be successful in the creative online content markets.

Further information and the questionnaire can be found at the site above. Input to this consultation will help shape a Commission Communication on Content Online, due for adoption at the end of the year. The deadline for replies is **13 October 2006**.

See also the speech by Commissioner Reding at "*creativity.online.fi*" Finnish Presidency conference (*Helsinki, 14 July 2006*), "Content online: Europe's strategy to foster content creation and distribution in the multiplatform media business"

([http://ec.europa.eu/comm/commission\\_barroso/reding/docs/speeches/helsinki\\_content\\_online\\_20060714.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/commission_barroso/reding/docs/speeches/helsinki_content_online_20060714.pdf)).

### MEDIA 2007

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

Following the agreement on the EU's financial perspectives for 2007-2013, the Council adopted on 24 July its common position on the draft Media 2007 programme. The text has now been forwarded to Parliament for its second reading, expected on 14 November.

The Commission in turn, presented on 10 August its opinion on the Council's common position (*COM (2006)0450*), which takes up in essence Parliament's amendments and proposes a small number of changes to the original proposal, including a change in the budget (set at € 671 million at 2004 prices). The two substantive differences are the provisions on Comitology and a new element apart from the budget - the

inclusion of an indicative breakdown in the Annex in line with the previous decision on MEDIA Plus.

In its opinion, the Commission rejects some of the amendments believing that they go beyond the objectives of the programme or fall outside of its scope; others refer to actions and objectives already covered by the programme. Other amendments were not acceptable because they would not help to reduce the imbalance between Member States with low production capacity and those with high production capacity. Amendments referring to the Treaty establishing a Constitution and those to open the programme to third countries could not be accepted either.

*Co decision Procedure  
Second Reading*

### 7<sup>th</sup> progress report on the promotion of European works (2003-2004)

[http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/reg/tvwf/implementation/promotion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/avpolicy/reg/tvwf/implementation/promotion/index_en.htm)

Europe's TV broadcasters on average devote over 60% of their programming time to European works and over 30% to works by independent European producers, says the Commission in its 7<sup>th</sup> progress report on the promotion of European works (2003-2004), issued on 14 August (*COM (2006)0459 and SEC (2006)1073*). Broadcasters in the new EU Member States show as much European content as those in the EU-15.

The report says that the EU-wide average broadcasting time for European works was 65.18% in 2003 and 63.32% in 2004. Average transmission times varied between

52.75% (Ireland) and 86.20% (Denmark) in 2003 and between 49.12% (Czech Republic) and 86.33% (Denmark) in 2004.

*Articles 4 and 5* of the "Television without Frontiers" (TVwF) Directive deal with the promotion of the broadcasting of European works, including those created by producers, independent from the broadcasters. The Commission proposal of December 2005 to modernise the Directive, currently in first reading in Parliament and Council, leaves *Article 4 and 5* untouched. The Commission decided not to extend these provisions to non-linear audiovisual media services.

## Consumer Protection

### Service of documents in civil or commercial matters

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/file.jsp?id=5263622>

*P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0288 of 4 July 2006*

Parliament adopted on 4 July a report by MEP GAUZÈS (A6-0024/2006) and made some amendments to the proposal, mainly:

- § The addressee should be informed in writing that he/she may refuse to accept the document if it is not either in a language which he/she understands or in an official language of the place of service;
- § The receiving agency should serve the document also in cases where it has not been possible to effect service within the month;
- § The Commission should draw up a manual

to be published in the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters;  
 § A review clause requiring the Commission to consider amending the Regulation by June 2011 and every five years thereafter has been added.

This proposal aims at improving the transmission and service of this kind of documents between the Member States and improving legal certainty for the applicant and for the addressee.

Pending Parliament's opinion, the Council agreed on a general approach on 1 June; its common position is expected on 5 October.

### Recovery of uncontested claims, European order for payment procedure

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/file.jsp?id=242002>

The Council adopted on 30 June, by unanimity, a common position for adoption of a Regulation which aims at establishing a uniform rapid and efficient mechanism for the recovery of uncontested money claims throughout the EU. The common position limits the scope of application to cross-border cases (at least one of the parties is domiciled or habitually resident in a Member State other than the Member State of the seized court), whatever the nature of the court or tribunal.

Several changes have been made to enable electronic and automated processing of the application; the initial two-step order for

payment procedure has been replaced by a single phase procedure. However, additional procedural guarantees have been inserted to protect the rights of the parties to the proceedings.

The common position clarifies the deadlines for different procedural phases; it also includes provisions on enforcement and a detailed review clause.

The Commission issued its communication on the common position on 4 July (*COM (2006) 0374*); Parliament in turn is expected to vote at its plenary session on 24 October (second reading).

## Cooperation with Third Countries

### European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/file.jsp?id=5205332>

*P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0306 of 6 July 2006*

Parliament adopted on 6 July a resolution drafted by MEP SZYMAŃSKI (A6-0164/2006) and made several amendments to the Commission's proposal. Parliament amended certain areas of cooperation and inserted new areas of cooperation where Community assistance will be used to support measures promoting e.g. historical

and cultural heritage and its development potential, including through tourism.

The financial envelope for its implementation is € 11 181m (2007-2013). The Commission shall submit by 31 December 2010 (rather than 2011) a report evaluating its implementation. The proposed Regulation is now awaiting Council's opinion.

*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

*Co decision Procedure  
Second Reading*

## Cooperation with Third Countries

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### EU-Canada Agreement on higher education, training and youth (2006-2013)

The Council adopted on 18 July a Decision approving the signature of an agreement with Canada aimed at establishing a cooperation framework in the fields of higher education, training and youth for the

period 2006-2013.

The previous agreement, concluded in 2000, renewed the EU-Canada programme for five years, ending in 2005.

### Commission supports university reforms in neighbouring countries

<http://ec.europa.eu/tempus>

On 17 July, the Commission approved 110 new university cooperation projects and 61 structural measures under the **Tempus** programme, which supports higher education reform in the EU's neighbouring countries.

The 110 Joint European Projects covering a broad range of disciplines will receive an EC contribution totalling € 46 m; 61 Structural

and Complementary Measures, mainly used to accompany the partner countries in their efforts to align their higher education systems with the principles of the Bologna process, to create a European Higher Education Area, will share an EU contribution of € 7½ m.

Three other Tempus calls for proposals will be organised by **October** and **December**.

## Intellectual Property Rights

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### Technical assistance offered by the EU in the field of IPR

The EU is a major provider of technical assistance in the field of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in favour of developing and least-developed countries

([http://ec.europa.eu/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/intell\\_property/pr030806\\_en.htm#1](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/intell_property/pr030806_en.htm#1)).

It fully integrates the development dimension in its IP technical assistance, which is based on the needs and the level of development of partner countries/regions, as well as on their national objectives.

Its technical assistance programmes dedicated to IPR focus on completing the legal framework to make the IP laws in the countries/regions concerned in line with, at

least, the minimum TRIPs requirements; facilitating the implementation (bilateral and multilateral agreements) of international IP obligations; improving the administration and enforcement of IPR; and raising awareness in the country/region on the significance of IPR.

Besides programmes promoting IPR, there are broader projects in the area of trade/customs that integrate IPR elements.

A summary of EU Support in the field of IPR can be found at

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2006/august/tradoc\\_129556.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2006/august/tradoc_129556.pdf).

### Public Hearing on Future Patent Policy in Europe

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/indprop/patent/hearing\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/indprop/patent/hearing_en.htm)

Following the launch of a public consultation on future patent policy in Europe, DG Internal Market and Services hosted an Open Hearing on 12 July in Brussels to start the second phase of the consultation, at the end of which the Commission will present its views on the future patent policy in Europe.

The Commission presented the results of a study on the economic and social value of patents in today's economy and the preliminary findings of the consultation based on replies received until 12 April ([http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/indprop/docs/patent/preliminary\\_findings\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/indprop/docs/patent/preliminary_findings_en.pdf)).

## Culture

### *Co decision Procedure Second Reading*

#### Culture 2007 programme

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

Following the agreement on the EU's financial perspectives 2007-2013, the Council reached on 18 July a political agreement on the entire draft Decision establishing the Culture 2007 programme.

Both the Council and the Commission have agreed to support Parliamentary suggestions that the "preservation of memorials" be transferred to the "Citizens for Europe" programme. The Commission could not agree however with some changes to its proposal.

The Council, in line with Parliament's approach, lowered the minimum community

support from € 60 000 to € 50 000 and reduced the minimum number of operators from 4 to 3 for cooperation measures to facilitate access of small operators to the programme. It also introduced a management committee procedure for projects with a total Community contribution exceeding € 200 000.

The financial envelope allocated to the programme amounts to € 354 million (at 2004 prices).

The text is now awaiting second reading in Parliament, scheduled for 14 November.

#### Culture 2000, Call for Proposals 2006

A list of selected projects under call for proposals EAC/39/05 (2005/C 172/14 of 17 July 2005) can be found at

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/how\\_particip2000/pract\\_info/appel\\_2006\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/how_particip2000/pract_info/appel_2006_en.html) (Action 1 and Action 2).

In addition, operating grants under call for proposals EAC/38/05 (2005/C 201 of 18 August 2005) for 2006 have been awarded to bodies active at European level in the field of culture; see the selected organisations at [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/other\\_actio](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/other_actio)

[ns/support\\_eur\\_org/pdf\\_word/selected\\_or\\_ganisations\\_3805.pdf](ns/support_eur_org/pdf_word/selected_or_ganisations_3805.pdf).

#### *EAC/41/2006*

Moreover, a public tender on the final evaluation of the Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of Culture has been launched (2006/S 122-129441 of 30 June 2006); the deadline is 15 September 2006 ([http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources\\_info/evaluation/eval\\_org\\_cult\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/evaluation/eval_org_cult_en.html)).

Tenders will be open on 25 September.

#### Inventory of best practices linking Culture with Education

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources\\_info/studies/educult\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/studies/educult_en.html)

The European Commission selected the *Pôle universitaire européen de Lorraine* to carry out a study concerning an inventory of the best practices linking culture with education (Tender EAC/59/03

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources\\_info/pdf-](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/cdc_annexes_educ_cult_en.pdf)

[word/cdc\\_annexes\\_educ\\_cult\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/cdc_annexes_educ_cult_en.pdf)). The study, covering the EU-25, EEA signatory states, Bulgaria and Romania, aims at giving an overall picture of both national and European actions that link formal, non-formal and informal education, vocational training and young people with culture in its various forms of expression (performing and visual arts, music, books and reading, cultural

heritage). To achieve this goal, major players and networks working towards reinforcing the synergies "culture, education, vocational training and young people" have been identified, as well as examples of best practices to further develop them and propose a series of recommendations to the Commission concerning possible future joint actions.

The report, only available in French, an executive summary (French and English) and the Compendium on initiatives and programmes (national actions and European actions) can all be found at the website above.

## Culture

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### Call for ideas to promote Intercultural Dialogue in Europe

[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/call\\_idea\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/call_idea_en.html)

The European Commission is launching a "Call for ideas" addressed to civil society and all other interested parties to promote intercultural dialogue in Europe. This will enable the Commission to define guidelines for future calls for proposals, which will be published in 2007, in the framework of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The development of intercultural competences and the promotion of intercultural dialogue are fundamental. 2008 must be the year of every single citizen. Its success will rely on the ideas, experience and imagination of the citizens, thus participation is highly encouraged. The closing date for contributions is **13 October 2006**.

## Education

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### Lifelong learning programme for 2007-2013

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

Following the agreement on the EU's financial framework for 2007-2013, the Council adopted on 24 July its common position on the decision establishing the lifelong learning action programme. The text has now been sent to Parliament for second reading, scheduled for 14 November.

end of 2006). It comprises four sub-programmes already existing within the current Socrates programme: **COMENIUS; Erasmus; Leonardo da Vinci** and **GRUNDTVIG** and will include a "transversal" programme, plus a **Jean Monnet** programme.

The new programme succeeds to the existing **Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, e-Learning** and related programmes (due to expire at the

The financial envelope allocated to the programme is set at € 6 200 million (at 2004 prices).

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*Co decision Procedure  
Second Reading*

### Creation of a European Qualifications Framework

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ocil/file.jsp?id=5303142>

The EMPL Committee adopted on 18 July the own-initiative report by MEP Mann (*A6-0248/2006*) on the creation of a European Qualifications Framework (EQF) within the context of lifelong learning. In his report, the Rapporteur calls on the Member States to draw up a national qualifications framework (NQF) and link it with the EQF. It should be stressed that a future EQF would be developed and implemented on a voluntary basis only and would entail no legal obligations.

development of an EQF should not be used as a tool to impose any additional requirements on the existing Directive.

According to the report, the EQF must take informal and non-formal qualifications, in particular professional experience, into account and should promote the concept of equivalence of academic and vocational education pathways. It should form a logically structured starting point to create a mutually compatible system; the descriptors of the eight vertical steps of the EQF should be formulated more concisely. Lastly, 'Knowledge' and 'skills' can be subsumed in 'specialist and professional competence', as competence is the aim of all three areas.

It would be a meta-framework to increase transparency and mutual trust between educational stakeholders. The EU Directive on professional qualifications (June 2005) would remain the legal instrument that is binding on Member States concerning the recognition of professional qualifications in the field of the regulated professions. The

The report will be voted at plenary session in September; debate by Council is scheduled for 13 November.



## Enlargement

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### Romania and Bulgaria's EU aspirations on agenda

The EU aspirations of Romania and Bulgaria face a crucial test in coming months. In late September, the Commission will report on whether they have made sufficient efforts to reform their judiciaries and fight corruption. Parliament passed a resolution in June supporting EU membership if the countries continue the reform process.

A positive report endorsed by Ministers and Parliament would mean both join the EU on schedule on 1 January 2007. If they join, 35 Romanian and 18 Bulgarian MEPs will sit in the EP representing 29.6 million citizens.

Turkey's progress towards EU accession will be debated at plenary session in September.

## Enterprise

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### EU Study on the specific policy needs for ICT standardisation

<http://www.icstandardisation.eu/>

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

The Commission has launched a study to analyse the present state of the European ICT standardisation policy and to bring forward recommendations for its future development. The most striking development is the shift from hardware to software and the impact this has on traditional standardisation policy. The results of the study, and its proposals, will be presented at an open workshop in **spring 2007**.

A Project Team led by Prof. Dr. P van Eecke, DLA Piper, has been set up to perform the study. A Core Team of four experts will perform the factual analysis of the standardisation issues; a Field Expert Team of 10 specialists will support it and an Advisory Board of three standardisation authorities will be set up for assessing each deliverable on its legal and technical qualities before it is submitted to the Commission.

## EU Information Policy

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### EESC opinion in response to the White Paper on Communication Policy Transparency to enhance the legitimacy of lobbying activities

On 6 July, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted its opinion (*Rapporteur*: Jillian van Turnhout) on the Commission's White Paper on a **Communication Policy**. The opinion, adopted by a very large majority (just four abstentions), addresses and provides clear stances on each of the five issues raised in the White Paper. It strongly advises against a charter or code of conduct but argues equally strongly in favour of a proper legal basis. In addition, it stresses the need for closer cooperation between the Commission and the Committee's members at decentralised level and urges the member states to place greater emphasis on a common vision and positive messages, particularly through civic education.

Furthermore, the EESC and the Commission organised on 11 July a hearing on two key questions of the Green Paper on the **European Transparency Initiative** (ETI): the creation of a registration system and the drawing up of a joint code of conduct for civil society organisations and other interested parties.

The proceedings will provide an input to the Committee's opinion (due for adoption in October) and fed into the Commission's discussions on the follow-up to the Green Paper.

Visit

[http://eesc.europa.eu/sco/events/11\\_07\\_06\\_transparency/index\\_en.asp](http://eesc.europa.eu/sco/events/11_07_06_transparency/index_en.asp).

## EU Research and Development

### Political agreement reached on 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP7)

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

Following Parliament's amendments and the Council's views on the initial FP7 proposal, the Commission tabled a revised proposal ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/documents\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/documents_en.html)) to achieve more coherence between national and EU research policies. The unofficial version of the document shows no major content-related changes, but a number of clarifications and additions in many parts, especially in the different individual research themes. The budget remains that of the revised package adopted on 24 May.

On 24 July, the Council reached, by qualified majority, a political agreement on FP7, thus settling the outstanding controversies. The Austrian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish and Slovakian delegations voted against. On the basis of the agreement, the Council will establish its common position and forward it to Parliament for second reading, scheduled for the autumn. If agreement is reached, the programme will start on 1 January 2007.

### More Research and Innovation, investing for Growth and Employment

*P6\_TA-PROV (2006)0301 of 5 July 2006*

Parliament adopted on 5 July a non-legislative resolution based on the own-initiative report by MEP del CASTILLO VERA on the Commission Communication entitled "*Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme: More Research and Innovation - Investing for growth and employment: A common approach*". It pointed out that Europe lags behind the US and Japan in terms of growth, research and productivity, failing to capitalise on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) application or to attract R&D investment into Europe.

Accordingly, Parliament urged Member States to promote entrepreneurship from the early stages of education onwards and to strengthen their support for lifelong learning by encouraging ICT training amongst both employed and unemployed persons. It noted the Union's delays in implementing the Lisbon Strategy in the area of education and training, and recommended that the role of

FP7 will be implemented through specific programmes with a global budget of €50,521 million: **Cooperation** (collaborative research); **Ideas** (*ind.* the ERC); **People** (human resources); and **Capacities** (potential research capacities of SMEs). The text also contains an indicative breakdown of spending among the programmes. The specific programmes and the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under FP7 are integral part of the FP7 legislative package. These will be decided on at a later stage.

Furthermore, high-level representatives of the German EU Presidency and the European Commission will open a major event on European research in Brussels on 7 March 2007, which will mark the launch of the FP7 (*see* FP7 Launch Event - Today is the Future at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/events/>).

universities be enhanced by developing synergies between higher education, research, lifelong learning and the productive sectors within the economy. It noted the recent changes concerning the protection and dissemination of scientific know-how, to the success of scientific reviews published with free access and to the "Science Commons" licence and urged the Commission to provide information on the protection of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and to create a general reporting system to monitor indicators such as revenues from contract research, patents filed and licensing.

The resolution, awaiting publication in the OJ, notes that the objective of investing 3% of EU GDP in research by 2010 will probably not be achieved ([http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/index_en.htm)). It is foreseen further examination by Council in view of adopting a resolution in December.

*Co decision Procedure  
First Reading*

## Information Society

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### Networking Sessions and Workshops at IST 2006

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/istevent/2006/networking/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/istevent/2006/networking/index_en.htm)

The Networking Sessions and Workshops at IST 2006 provide an open forum for exchanging views and ideas on how to address these challenges.

Around 300 proposals were received by the time the Call for Proposals closed. After a validation phase by the Organising Committee, most proposals have now been published online. All website visitors can now comment on the proposals; the responses will influence the Organising

Committee's final decision on which proposals to select.

Comment on the proposals at [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/istevent/2006/cf/itemlist.cfm?type=Session&status=Published](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/istevent/2006/cf/itemlist.cfm?type=Session&status=Published).

The final list of selected Networking Sessions and Workshops will be available by **mid September**.

### Commission opens public consultation on RFID

The European Commission launched on 3 July an online public consultation on how it can help to ensure that the growing use of Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) boosts the competitiveness of Europe's economy and improves the quality of life of its citizens, whilst safeguarding their basic rights, and in particular their privacy. Further information and access to the online public consultation can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice> and/or <http://www.rfidconsultation.eu>.

The consultation will be open until **30 September 2006**. After consultation, the Commission will draft a communication to

be presented in **December** (see the roadmap at

<http://www.rfidconsultation.eu/docs/imagens/roadmap.jpg>).

See also Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) Frequently Asked Questions (*MEMO/06/112 of 9 March 2006*) at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid>.

The European Commission will organise a final conference on RFID in Brussels on **16 October** to close the series of consultation initiatives ([http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/policy/rfid/conference2006\\_reg/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/policy/rfid/conference2006_reg/index_en.htm)).

## Internal Market

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### Council adopts its common position on the Services Directive

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

On 24 July, following its agreement on 29 May, Competitiveness ministers - Belgian and Lithuanian delegations abstained - adopted a common position on the proposed Services directive (see details at [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/90635.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/90635.pdf)).

After an EP vote earlier this year, the Commission revised its proposal and it is this revised legislation that the Council has approved. Since ministers reached an agreement on the new draft, it is possible that

the services directive may be tied up by the end of the year.

The common position, which in substance is closely aligned to Parliament's opinion and the Commission's amended proposal, will now be sent to Parliament for second reading, scheduled for mid-November.

The key features of the Council's common position are the Directive's scope of application and services excluded and freedom of establishment in other Member States.

*Co decision Procedure  
Second Reading*

## Internal Market

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### Internal Market Scoreboard, Member States need to speed up their efforts

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/score/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/index_en.htm)

According to the Commission's latest *Internal Market Scoreboard* presented on 18 July, Member States need to speed up their efforts to implement Internal Market rules into national law. On average, 1.9% of Internal Market Directives for which the implementation deadline has passed are not currently implemented into national law (an increase of 0.3% since November 2005). This means that the interim target deficit of 1.5% agreed by Heads of State has not been reached.

Progress is also slow in the correct application of Internal Market rules: not a single 'old' Member State has been able to deliver on its promise to reduce infringement proceedings by 50% during 2003-2006.

A list of Internal Market Directives adopted as at 1 April 2006, sorted by transposition deadline, can be found at

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/score/docs/relateddocs/list-dir/im-directives\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/docs/relateddocs/list-dir/im-directives_en.pdf).

Furthermore, the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual report, including the staff papers annexed to it - contributions and statistical annexes - gives an account of the Commission's activities as regards monitoring the application of Community law in 2005 (*COM (2006)0416, SEC (2006)0999 and SEC (2006)1005 of 24 July 2006*).

An average of 97.69% of measures had been notified by the EU-25 in January 2005. The total number of infringement proceedings initiated by the Commission fell from 2993 in 2004 to 2653 in 2005. By 31 December 2005, 1697 cases out of the 2653 registered were still ongoing.

## Internet

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### Freedom of expression on the Internet

*B6-0401/2006, B6-0402/2006, B6-0404/2006, B6-0408/2006, B6-0411/2006 and B6-0414/2006*

The July plenary session concluded with a debate on freedom of expression on the Internet. In its joint resolution, adopted by 65 votes in favour, none against and two abstentions, Parliament condemns government-imposed restrictions on Internet content which conflict with freedom of expression and called for an EU code of conduct to limit western businesses that contribute to censoring the Internet in repressive countries. The resolution singles out **Yahoo, Google and Microsoft**, which have been persuaded by the Chinese Government to facilitate censorship of their services in the Chinese market.

According to Parliament, equipment and technologies supplied by western companies such as CISCO Systems, Telecom Italia and Wanadoo (a subsidiary of France Telecom) have been used by governments to censor the web. The Commission encourages the

companies concerned to work on a code of conduct, in close cooperation with NGOs. MEPs welcomed the introduction by US legislators of a draft law last February, the Global Online Freedom Act, aimed at regulating the activities of Internet businesses when they operate in repressive countries.

Additionally, the resolution refers in positive terms to the statement issued by the WSIS (*Tunis, 16-18 November 2005*) on the importance of the information society for democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, which includes the freedom to receive and access information.

MEPs called on the Council and Member States to agree a joint statement confirming their commitment to the protection of Internet users' rights and the promotion of free expression on the Internet world-wide.

## Telecommunications

### Household survey, Telecoms and broadband access in Europe

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/comm/info\\_centre/documentation/studies\\_ext\\_consult/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/comm/info_centre/documentation/studies_ext_consult/index_en.htm)

The findings of an EU-wide survey of 25,000 representative households in the EU-25, conducted between 7 December 2005 and 11 January 2006, have been summarized in a special Euro barometer report published on 25 August as a contribution to the ongoing public debate on the **Review 2006 of the EU regulatory framework for e-communications**, together with three studies conducted for the Commission. The respondents aged 15 years and over, are representative of the total population. Almost one in four households is now connected to the Internet via high-speed "broadband" links. Broadband's popularity grows with household size (only 12% of single households have it, compared with 34% of those with four members or more) and, of those households that have only "narrowband" Internet connections, 40% do

not wish to upgrade, either because they are satisfied with the speed of their dial-up connection or because they do not use the Internet enough to justify the higher cost of broadband.

The three studies deal with some of the key subjects of the review process: **growth and investment** in the EU e-communications sector, **regulatory reform** and the state of competition in the e-communications markets. While they are not binding on the Commission, they are useful contributions to the public consultation that will last until the end of October.

The three studies can be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/comm/info\\_centre/documentation/studies\\_ext\\_consult/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/comm/info_centre/documentation/studies_ext_consult/index_en.htm).

### EU telecoms rules, 18 more infringement cases closed, 5 new ones opened

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/policy/comm/implementation/infraction\\_cases/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/policy/comm/implementation/infraction_cases/index_en.htm)

On 7 July, the Commission closed another 18 cases as Member States have taken the required steps to comply with EU rules. Simultaneously, five new cases were opened, four of which concern the non-conformity of national "must-carry" rules with the **EU Universal Service Directive** in Belgium (Wallonia and Brussels), the Netherlands and Finland and pending proceedings against Finland, Latvia and Poland were carried forward. The other case concerns the failure to grant "rights of way" in Cyprus, which has prevented new entrants from being able to offer their services in competition with the incumbent.

9 cases were closed following the adoption of new legislation or other implementation measures taken by the Member States. These concern Cyprus and Slovenia with regard to the independence of the **national regulatory authority** (NRA), Estonia concerning the **powers of the national regulator**, the Netherlands (**Access Directive**) Slovakia (**Access and Universal Service directives**), the Czech Republic and Latvia (**e-Privacy Directive**). Following amendments in legislation in these two

Member States, the Commission can now close the infringement proceedings; cases against Germany and Slovakia are still under review), and Sweden regarding the **transition** from the previous telecoms rules to the current framework.

European Court of Justice proceedings are being brought against Poland (publication of a comprehensive **directory**) and Latvia (comprehensive **inquiry service**). Finally, Finland faces infringement proceedings for failing to ensure that its national telecoms authorities have sufficient powers to regulate the market for **terminating fixed to mobile calls**.

See *MEMO/06/271 of 7 July 2006* at <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/>.

Furthermore, the Commission sent a letter of formal notice to Italy on 19 July to request information about its **broadcasting legislation's compatibility** with EU rules on competition and the new EU Regulatory Framework. Italy has now two months to respond.

## Trade Policy

### Suspension of the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

On behalf of the Committee on International Trade, MEP Enrique Barón Crespo has asked the Commission to explain the causes of the failure of G6 trade ministers to find an agreement on modalities in agriculture and non-agricultural market access in Geneva on 23-24 July and of the subsequent decision to suspend *sine die* the DDA negotiations. These collapsed as the US pressed calls for lower tariffs on agricultural imports, while the EU, Japan and Australia insisted that American farm subsidies must first be cut.

The Committee on International Trade wants the Commission to provide an assessment of the current situation and of the likelihood of the DDA negotiations resuming at a later stage. Moreover, it wants the Commission to evaluate the possible

impact of the suspension on developing countries; EU trade policy, particularly with respect to a programme of bilateral/regional negotiations and on the multilateral trading system, in particular with respect to the operation of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism and a future institutional reform of the WTO.

The Commission intends, in the short term, to extract from the rubble of the negotiations a significant development package and frontload it, creating an early harvest for the neediest developing countries.

Further information on the DDA can be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/comm/trade/issues/newround/doha\\_da/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/trade/issues/newround/doha_da/index_en.htm).

## Youth Policy

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

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

Following the agreement on the EU's financial framework for 2007-2013, the Council adopted on 24 July its common position on the draft Decision establishing the "Youth in action" programme. The text

will now be sent to Parliament for a second reading, scheduled for 14 November. The financial envelope allocated to the programme amounts to € 785 million (at 2004 prices).

*Co decision Procedure  
Second Reading*

### Follow-up to the White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth

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

COM (2006)0417 and SEC (2006)1006 of 20 July 2006

In its follow-up to the 2003 White Paper on a "New Impetus for European Youth", adopted on 20 July, the Commission highlights the need to improve the information for the young and calls upon the Member States to pursue their actions aiming at procuring better information and governance of young people.

The Commission proposes to confirm the relevance and validity of the common objectives for participation and information and to slightly adapt and improve the adopted lines of action in the following ways:

improving access for young people to information services; quality information; participation by young people in information and civic life; and supporting various forms of learning to participate.

Amongst others, it proposes that Member States single out by the end of 2006 lines of action on which they wish to concentrate and define action plans as well as Member States to put in place a follow-up mechanism involving young people and their organisations and prepare an evaluation report by the end of 2008.

Further information can be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/pol/policy\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/pol/policy_en.html).

# EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

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## Information sources used include

Bulletin Quotidien Europe  
Council Press Office Newsroom,  
[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3\\_fo/showPage.asp?id=221&lang=en&mode=g](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=221&lang=en&mode=g)  
European Parliament, the Legislative Observatory,  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/index.jsp?language=en>  
RAPID - Press and Communication Service of the European Commission,  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/setLanguage.do?language=en>  
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/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)  
PreLex, the database on inter-institutional procedures,  
<http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en>  
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.