



April 2003

# EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

## Highlights:

- eLearning programme 2004-2006, p.1
- Report on Cultural Heritage, p. 2
- Parliament public hearing on cultural industries, p. 6
- 

- 
- Conferences & workshops, p. 14
- 

PO Box 43300  
NL- 2504 The Hague  
Tel.: +31 70 309 06 08  
Fax: +31 70 309 07 08  
www.eblida.org

## Education

---

### eLearning programme 2004-2006

The European Parliament adopted on 8 April, a legislative resolution based on the draft by MEP Mauro approving the eLearning Programme(2004-2006).

The Commission modified proposal, presented on 29 April, accepts fully or in part 24 of the 27 amendments adopted by Parliament.

Some amendments emphasised support for European networks that straighten the pedagogical and education use of the

Internet and ICT and also for the exchange of good practice.

A second series of amendments introduce references to specific target groups e.g. the disabled, rural areas, immigrants, and to gender issues. These are amendments 2, 5 (only for the English version), 8, 10, 20 and 21. Amendment 9, which adds to the programme's objectives the development of high quality multimedia European software, contents and

*Continued on page 7*

## Information Society

---

### INFSO call submission system goes live

<http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/subprop.cfm>  
It is possible to prepare and submit a proposal using the Electronic Proposals Submission System (EPSS) or by downloading electronic forms and submitting them on paper. The EPSS for INFSO call 2002-1 went live on 3 April.

EPSS is a browser-independent web-based application enabling RTD proposals to be constructed and

submitted electronically before being transferred to the Evaluation Service system.

Project co-ordinators have to register to receive a login and password. You may otherwise request the login and password - well in advance of the closure of the call, to be sent to you by fax. Contact the EPSS operator, [support@epss-fp6.org](mailto:support@epss-fp6.org).

### Digicult Technology Watch Report 1 now available

Digicult is an IST support measure which aims at establishing a regular technology watch for cultural and scientific heritage over a 30-month period (March 2002 until August 2004). The first of Digicult's three major Technology Watch Report publications

is now available online. It identifies and describes technologies that are either not currently used in the heritage sector or are under-used by it. Download the report at [http://www.digicult.info/downloads/twr2003\\_01\\_low.pdf](http://www.digicult.info/downloads/twr2003_01_low.pdf).

## Table of Contents

---

|  |    |
|--|----|
| eLearning programme 2004-2006  | 1  |
| INFISO call submission system goes live                                  | 1  |
| Digicult Technology Watch Report 1 now available                         | 1  |
| EBLIDA report on cultural heritage                                       | 2  |
| Media to be extended until 2006  | 3  |
| Brava, Broadcast Restoration of Archives through Video Analysis          | 3  |
| Cross-border enforcement order for legal claims                          | 3  |
| New agreements with candidate countries on information society services  | 4  |
| Six Accession Countries join the IDA Programme                           | 4  |
| Awards for the EUROPA Enlargement website                                | 4  |
| Parliament says yes to enlargement                                       | 4  |
| Patent Europe goes online  | 5  |
| Results of Culture 2000 call for tenders 2003 released                   | 5  |
| Culture 2000 programme to be extended until 2006                         | 5  |
| After 2006...new consultation on a future cultural programme             | 6  |
| Parliament public hearing on cultural industries                         | 6  |
| Cultural organisations present a position paper on culture and education | 6  |
| The Regional networks for Lifelong Learning initiative launched          | 7  |
| Parliament Resolution on Erasmus Mundus adopted                          | 7  |
| PIRLS international report on reading abilities now available            | 8  |
| eBusinesslex.net on legal aspects  | 8  |
| An Information and Communication Strategy for the European Union         | 8  |
| Regulation on public access to the historical archives of the Community  | 9  |
| Debate on European affairs held at Parliament                            | 9  |
| Further agreements for scientific and technological co-operation         | 9  |
| EU Action plan to boost research efforts in Europe                       | 10 |
| Commission results on evaluation of the IDA programme published          | 10 |
| IST 2003 under preparation   | 10 |
| Comitology procedure   | 11 |
| Registration of Community Designs from 1 April 2003                      | 11 |
| Better Lawmaking   | 11 |
| New Commission proposals to review cyber crime strategies                | 12 |
| Report on implementation on the legal protection of services directive   | 12 |
| Commission new proposal on the eTEN programme available                  | 12 |
| France presents a new decree to adjust universal service                 | 13 |
| Current state of play on WTO Negotiations and services                   | 13 |
| Conferences and workshops  | 14 |

## Lobbying for archives and libraries

### EBLIDA report on Cultural Heritage

Increased awareness by Europeans about their common cultural heritage has led member states to confer on the Community a specific competence in the field of cultural affairs.

In 1974, the European Parliament adopted an initial resolution which mentioned the need for Community action in the cultural sphere, particularly action to protect cultural heritage. Since 1993, the Treaty establishing the European Community has provided a legal basis specifically for activities concerning the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage. Article 151 of the Treaty stipulates that the Community must support and supplement action by member states in order to conserve and safeguard cultural heritage of European significance.

The action initially taken by the Community was limited to supporting the restoration of "built heritage", such as the Acropolis in Athens and the Chiado historic centre in Lisbon. Since then, the Community has taken action with regard to movable and immovable

heritage (museums, collections, libraries and archives); archaeological and architectural heritage; natural heritage (landscapes and sites of natural interest); linguistic and gastronomic heritage, and traditional occupations.

Community action of this kind deals with both the cultural and economic aspects of heritage. In connection with the PULMAN Project and the CALIMERA proposal's goals, in which EBLIDA has a relevant role, cultural heritage is becoming more and more relevant for Europeans as a vehicle of cultural identity.

MEP Mirja Ryynanen wrote, already in 1998 in her report "The role of Libraries in modern societies", that "in modern societies libraries are particularly important as a means of ensuring all citizens have access to the knowledge and culture". Not only libraries. Local institutions, including archives and museums, are becoming central points in which and from which culture is preserved and made available to citizens.

### EU Programmes

The European Commission response to this report already stated that the 5th FP was to support research on many technical aspects in relation to conserving and transferring information, among others.

The cultural co-operation programme Culture 2000 (2000 – 2004), which will probably be extended until 2006, also focuses on preserving and enhancing Europe's cultural heritage.

The [6th Framework Programme](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/) (<http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/>) for research and technological development (2002 – 2006), moves a step forward in the field

of cultural heritage, supporting activities that involve transnational and interdisciplinary research in this field. One of the main reasons for this emphasis is the emergence of new forms of citizenship and cultural identities, consequence of the EU enlargement and the globalisation phenomena.

Within this general policy framework, EBLIDA is taking steps to participate, since the early stage, in the progressive cultural heritage definition in the EU, by having a relevant role in the proposed project CALIMERA.

## Audiovisual

---

### Media to be extended until 2006

The European Commission issued on 16 April, a proposal to amend Council Decision 2000/821/EC and extend the MEDIA Plus Programme which will end on 31 December 2005. Continuity of Community support for the audiovisual sector needs to be ensured. Moreover, any disruption of these mechanisms in support of Community objectives laid down in the Treaty should be avoided. The European Commission proposes that Media Plus be prolonged unchanged until 2006 with an overall budget of € 435.60 million. In addition, the European Commission proposes to prolong

Media Training until 2006 and adjust its overall budget as prolonged to € 57.40 million.

Furthermore, the European Commission intends to present, before the end of this year, a proposal to establish a new European Community programme for the European audiovisual sector which would begin in 2007.

Both Commission proposals (COM(2003)0191 and COM(2003)0188 are available at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

### Brava, Broadcast Restoration of Archives through Video Analysis

At present, the level of exploitation of moving picture archives is limited by high costs and lengthy processing time required to restore archive assets. BRAVA, an IST-funded project which aimed at improving the speed and efficiency of film restoration,

presented a series of cost-effective restoration solutions to open the door to more widespread use of film archives.

BRAVA was built on the results from the AURORA project. Visit <http://brava.ina.fr/>.

## Consumer Protection

---

### Cross-border enforcement order for legal claims

The European Parliament adopted on 8 April, a resolution based on the report by MEP Wuermeling with some amendments to the Commission's proposal. The key amendment said that the parties involved in a litigation procedure should be able to appeal according to their national law against the issuing of an enforcement order or the refusal thereof, whereas, in Article 8, the Commission proposal explicitly rules out the possibility of appeal.

This proposal aims at eliminating all checks on judgements handed down in one Member State as a prerequisite for enforcement in another Member State. It aims at establishing a European Enforcement Order (EEO) for uncontested claims. Despite improvements brought about by the Council Regulation 44/2001 (March 2002), there are however a

number of shortcomings in the existing legislative structure. Further, the current legislative landscape allows for the continuation of restrictive intermediate measures. Consequently joint Commission/Council working committees have concluded that the complete withdrawal of the exequatur - in the case of uncontested claims - should become a Community priority and be replaced by the EEO.

The European enforcement order will apply to civil and commercial matters, but not to revenue, customs or administrative matters. Certain areas of civil law are also excluded from the scope of the regulation. The report (A5-0108/2003), which is awaiting Council common position, can be downloaded from [http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm), under latest reports.

---

*Co decision procedure  
(first reading)*

## Co-operation with third countries

### New agreements with candidate countries on information society services

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003\\_0203en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003_0203en01.pdf)

The Commission has negotiated bilateral Agreements laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on information society services between the EC and the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The text of the Agreements and their Annexes are attached to the Communication (COM (2003) 0203).

Annex I provides a further clarification of the concept of information society services, as defined in point 2 of Article 1 of the Agreement. A proposal for a Council Decision concerning the adoption and signature of the bilateral Agreements is also attached to the Communication.

### Six Accession Countries join the IDA Programme

On 24 April, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Malta, Poland and Slovenia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Commission to formalise their participation in the IDA Programme.

The MoUs allow them to join the pan-European electronic infrastructure used by the EU institutions and member states to exchange data for the purposes

of applying EU law, enforcing single market rules, and supplying eGovernment services across borders to citizens and businesses.

Hungary will be next to sign a MoU. The remaining accession countries - Latvia, Lithuania and the Slovak Republic and three candidate countries - Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey will follow in 2003. Visit <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=home>.

### Awards for the EUROPA Enlargement website

The European Information Association (EIA) has awarded Lindsay Armstrong, Head of Unit in the European Commission responsible for the EUROPA server, the 2002 EIA/Chadwick Healey Award. At the same time the Enlargement [website](#)

(<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/>) took first place in the Electronic Sources Category of the Association's 2002 Awards for European Information Sources.

Visit EIA Awards, <http://www.eia.org.uk/awards.htm>.

### Parliament says yes to enlargement

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/negotiations/index.htm>

The European Parliament adopted on 9 April, a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by MEP Brok welcoming the decision of the European Council of Copenhagen to close accession negotiations with ten candidate countries. The Parliamentary resolution also sealed the financial framework for EU enlargement. These

countries will become members of the EU on 1 May 2004, provided that the ratification procedures are complete. Parliament also welcomed the application for EU membership put forward by Croatia.

The report (A5-0081/2003) can be downloaded from [http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm), under latest reports.

## Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

---

### Patent Europe goes online

<http://www.isc-europe.com/epoline/>

The epoline® access system is a new dual-use electronic tool. Users can consult online an impressive database of patents registered at the European Patents Office (EPO) – about three million documentary sources. In addition, applicants for an EPO patent can directly submit their own proposals for the rights to be granted.

Under the EU's new Community system for the protection of designs, Community designs will be registered

from 1 April. Registration will be administrated by the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM). The new system means that, with a single application, designs can be protected throughout the Single Market against deliberate copying and the independent development of a similar design.

It will also help fight counterfeiting and piracy. Visit

<http://oami.eu.int/en/design/default.htm>.

## Culture

---

### Results of Culture 2000 call for tenders 2003 released

Parliament had until mid April to comment on the list of projects drawn up by the Commission. Consultation came to an end on 29 April, which allows the Commission to sign subsidy agreements with the leading institutions of those projects selected. In addition, the list of all cultural operators

who took part in the programme in 2000 and/or 2001 is available at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/c2000condition\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/c2000condition_en.html).

This list will soon include all cultural operators who have received a grant in 2002 and/or 2003.

### Culture 2000 programme to be extended until 2006

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/c2000condition\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/c2000condition_en.html)

The European Commission issued on 16 April, a proposal to amend Decision 508/2000/EC and extend the Culture 2000 programme which will expire on 31 December 2004. Changes of major significance for the future of the EU e.g. enlargement, an IGC based on the work of the Convention, the election of the European Parliament and the appointment of a new Commission will be felt in the cultural sector as well. The European Commission proposes to extend Culture 2000 unchanged for 2005 and 2006 as well as setting the overall budget at € 236.5 million. Financing the 2005 projects requires a legal basis which should be adopted in early 2004 and a call for proposals published by the end of the first half of 2004. At the same time, through

preparatory actions, the Commission intends to explore future avenues for Community action in the cultural sphere e.g. new ways of supporting cooperation projects between operators, increased cooperation between Member States and vis-à-vis third countries, support for cultural industries, linking culture, education and training.

The experience gained, along with the conclusions drawn from the mid-term evaluation of Culture 2000 will be used to develop a new approach for a future programme of cultural action and cooperation. The European Commission intends to put forward proposals for a new European Community framework programme for culture by the end of 2003, to commence in 2007. The proposal (COM(2003) 187 final) is available at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

### After 2006...new consultation on a future cultural programme

On 14 April, the Commission launched a new consultation to prepare a cultural programme which will replace Culture 2000 once it comes to its end in 2004. The consultation is open until 10 July 2003.

“Designing the future programme of

cultural cooperation for the EU after 2006”, see working document at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/consult\\_pub\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/consult_pub_en.html).

Send your contribution by email to [EAC-CULT-CONSULT@cec.eu.int](mailto:EAC-CULT-CONSULT@cec.eu.int) or via the online form available on the website.

### Parliament public hearing on cultural industries

The Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport held on 22 April, a public hearing on cultural industries in Europe. EBLIDA attended the hearing together with over 200 participants. A questionnaire had been prepared prior to the hearing.

An executive summary of the findings and relevant conclusions, as well as a selection of charts and the list of organisations to which the questionnaire was sent, the Parliament working document on cultural industries drafted

by MEP Zorba and the programme are available from

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/committees/cult/CULT20030422/CULT20030422.htm>.

At the initiative of MEP Luigi Cesaro, the International Turin Book Fair gave its opinion on the report and presented its international strategies and its project to set itself up as a cultural integration platform, specifically targeting enlargement towards candidate countries.

### Cultural organisations present a position paper on culture and education

On 3 April, the [European Cultural Foundation](http://www.eurocult.org/) (<http://www.eurocult.org/>), the European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (<http://www.efah.org/>) and the European Policy Centre (<http://www.theepc.be/>) held a seminar to recognise the role of culture and education in the future European Treaty.

Participants adopted a position paper to be sent to the Convention, the EU institutions and other relevant players which calls for:

- the Union to maintain the content of Articles 150 and 151 (which fully endorse subsidiarity) and altering the decision-making procedure to make both subject to Qualified Majority Voting (QMV);
- locate education and culture within the framework of ‘shared competences’ rather than in an ambiguous category of ‘supporting actions’;
- combine articles 149 and 150 (education and vocational training) to stress the need for an integrated lifelong learning strategy.

*“The future of books and copyright is a question that concerns us all”*

Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO, 23 April 2003

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/>



## UNESCO World Book and Copyright Day

## Education

---

### eLearning programme 2004-2006

*Continued from page 1*

services, is also accepted. With regard to amendment 16, which proposes the total budget to increase from € 36 to € 54 million, the Commission stayed with its original proposal. The Council adopted its common position on 5 May and set a budget of € 33 million for the common position, subject to the Commission's confirmation of its acceptance. Once formally adopted at a forthcoming Council session, the common position will be

forwarded to Parliament for a second reading, scheduled for October this year. See Parliament report (A5-0080/2003) at [http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm), under latest reports.

Commission amended proposal (COM(2003)0245), [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003\\_0245en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003_0245en01.pdf).

---

*Co decision procedure  
(first reading)*

### The Regional networks for Lifelong Learning initiative launched

<http://mobilising.euproject.org/>

On 3 April, Commissioner Reding launched the R3L initiative, which is the first step to follow up the policy priorities for the regional and local dimensions of lifelong learning.

120 regions of Europe, grouped in 17

projects will work together for 18 months to share and exchange knowledge and best practice on education and lifelong learning.

The project website is directed both to those who seek information about learning regions and those who like to be actively involved in the project's learning region support activities.

### Parliament Resolution on Erasmus Mundus adopted

Parliament adopted on 8 April, a resolution drafted by MEP de Sarnez and made several amendments to the Commission's proposal on Erasmus. On 29 April, the Commission accepted 20 in full and 18 in principle of the 65 amendments made. 27 amendments were rejected.

Amongst those accepted are:

- the name (Erasmus Mundus);
- the recitals to refer to linguistic diversity and to democracy and equality between men and women;
- a clause stating that the Community should be mindful of 'brain drain';
- a new provision encouraging the use of two languages in Masters Courses;

Amongst those amendments not accepted are:

- Member states have exclusive competence in recognition matters;

- only Masters awarding recognised degrees will be eligible;
- amendment 44 raising the budget of the programme to € 300 million;
- a 3% limit on the budget of Action 4 is not acceptable. Budget allocation will be determined as provided in Article 7.

The Council in turn, adopted its common position on 5 May. Once formally adopted, the common position will be forwarded to Parliament for a second reading, scheduled for October this year.

See Parliament report (A5-0087/2003) at [http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm), under latest reports. Commission amended proposal (COM(2003)0239), [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003\\_0239en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003_0239en01.pdf).



## Education

---

### PIRLS international report on reading abilities now available

The first Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) results on reading abilities of children in primary school in 35 countries were published by the International Study Centre (ISC) at Boston College and the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).

On average, internationally, 57% of students were in schools where most or all classrooms had classroom libraries. On average, across countries, the

majority of fourth-grade students (62%) were given time to use the classroom library only weekly or less often. Teachers often help students learn to use the library and technology to access and exchange information and ideas. Charts on access to libraries in school, students' use of classroom libraries, frequency of students' school library visits and students' overall library use in school are attached. See PIRLS results, [http://timss.bc.edu/pirls2001i/PIRLS2001\\_Pubs\\_IR.html](http://timss.bc.edu/pirls2001i/PIRLS2001_Pubs_IR.html).

*“There is ample evidence that access to books and other print resources is an important support for the process of learning to read”*

## Enterprise

---

### eBusinesslex.net on legal aspects

<http://www.ebusinesslex.net/front/home.asp>

e-Businesslex.net is a new database providing information on the legal aspects of eBusiness. It is designed to help SMEs or those wishing to start new enterprises with its legal basis. Some of the legal complexities include contractual aspects, online payments, privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights.

The site has been developed by the Euro Info Centre (EIC) Network and the Commission's DG for Enterprise with the help of a selected group of legal experts.

It provides e.g. FAQs section, a glossary, references to eBusiness self-regulatory initiatives, and a database on eBusiness legislation. The site covers relevant issues however, it does not constitute or replace legal advice.

## EU Information Policy

---

### An Information and Communication Strategy for the European Union

On 10 April, Parliament adopted, by 320 votes in favour, 37 against and 48 abstentions, an own-initiative resolution drafted by MEP Bayona de Perogordo on an information strategy for the EU.

MEPs underline the crucial importance of information policy in the context of enlargement and of drafting a European Constitution. The resolution affirms that citizens have the right to have access to a full, impartial and objective

flow of information on the EU, in their own and “plain” language.

In addition, Parliament wants to see more decentralisation of the EU's information activities, involving not only member states but also national parliaments and regional and local authorities. See Parliament report (A5-0053/2003) at [http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm), under latest reports.

## EU Information Policy

### Regulation on public access to the historical archives of the Community

On 11 March this year (*see Hot News March 2003, p. 7*), Parliament adopted, with amendments, a legislative resolution approving the Commission proposal on access to Community archives. The Commission in turn, presented its amended proposal on 30 April, which accepts a large proportion of the amendments.

On the question of Regulation 1049/2001, the proposal states:

- the exceptions to public right of access provided for are applicable for a maximum period of 30 years. Exceptions relating to protection of privacy/commercial interest and the specific provisions on sensitive documents apply beyond that period if necessary;
- Council Regulation 354/83 provides that the public will not be given access

to certain categories of documents 30 years after the documents were created;

- all documents available to the public before the expiry of 30 years will remain available without restriction;
- the proposal makes specific reference to the exceptions contained in Articles 4(1) and (2);
- where possible, the institutions will make their archives available to the public by electronic means, and conserve documents in forms meeting special needs.

The proposed regulation is awaiting final decision by the Council. See Commission amended proposal (COM(2003)244fin) at [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003\\_0244\\_en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003_0244_en01.pdf).

### Debate on European affairs held at Parliament

EBLIDA attended on 3 April a debate on "Understanding Europe, the citizen's right to know" organised by the European Parliament, Commission, [Friends of Europe](#) and [ECAS](#) (Euro Citizen Action Service).

Issues debated included the communication on how to make

European policies more understandable to citizens; the role that information can play in reducing the democratic deficit; the opportunity to include in the future constitutional Treaty a citizen's right to be informed and the main challenges in the future - Parliament elections in 2004, the European Convention and enlargement.

[www.friendsofeurope.org](http://www.friendsofeurope.org)  
[www.ecas.org](http://www.ecas.org)

## EU Research and Development

### Further agreements for scientific and technological co-operation

External relations ministers decided on 14 April to authorise the Commission to negotiate agreements on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Arab

Republic of Egypt, the Kingdom of Morocco (COM(2003)288, 21 May 2003) and the Republic of Tunisia (COM2003)303, 26 May 2003). Visit <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

### EU Action plan to boost research efforts in Europe

On 30 April, the EU presented a new action plan for European research. 'Investing in Research: an action plan for Europe' (COM(2003)226) includes measures to increase investment in research, particularly from businesses.

The action plan presents guidelines for better fiscal incentives for businesses to invest in research as well as making proposals for the redirection of public spending towards research and innovation. It also sets out guidelines to improve research management e.g. through protection of intellectual property, improved career prospects for researchers, and strengthened links between industry and public research e.g. new actions to support the development and diffusion of

information. The action plan is a response to the Barcelona summit in 2002, where it was agreed that research investment should rise from 1.9% to 3% of GDP by 2010, with the input from business rising to two thirds of this total.

The communication on 'More research for Europe: towards 3% of GDP' kicked off a wide consultation of European institutions, current and future member states and stakeholders. This action plan is the result of that consultation. It will be submitted to the Competitiveness Council on 12 May. Visit

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/3pct/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/era/3pct/index_en.html).

## Information Society

---

### Commission results on evaluation of the IDA programme published

The European Commission has published the results of its mid-term evaluation of the IDA programme. Conclusions will be served as a basis for its future proposal on subsequent IDA II activities that will begin on 31 December 2004. Specific actions should be carried out before the programme ends e.g. to organise tutorial sessions and/or information days in both

member states and candidate countries; keeping an open dialogue with all stakeholders concerned on pan-European eGovernment services to citizens and enterprises.

The full report can be consulted at [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/fr/comm/rpt/2003\\_0100fr01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/fr/comm/rpt/2003_0100fr01.pdf).

### IST 2003 under preparation

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/istevent/2003/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/istevent/2003/index_en.htm)

IST 2003 is under preparation and will take place in Milan, Italy, from 2 to 4 October, under the Italian Presidency in partnership with SMAU.

support of the IST Programme, closed on 15 May. The 20 winners - each receiving € 5 000, will be announced in June and will exhibit at the IST 2003 event.

The call for proposals, which was closed on 5 May, will be followed by a interactive call for networking sessions. Applications for the IST Prize, organised by Euro CASE with the

Three of them will be awarded the Grand Prize, worth € 200 000 each, at the EISTP Award Ceremony on 2 October. Visit <http://www.ist-prize.org/>.

## Information Society

---

### Comitology procedure

In December 2001, the Commission submitted to the Council four draft Regulations on provisions relating to committees which assist the Commission in the exercise of its implementing powers. These proposals are aimed at bringing the current legislation into line with Council Decision 1999/468/EC.

On 14 April, External relations ministers adopted, in public deliberation, a common position on a draft Regulation on Comitology provisions laid down in acts which are subject to co decision procedure with

the European Parliament, which will now be forwarded to Parliament for a second reading.

Furthermore, the Council adopted two Regulations on acts subject to consultation and based, respectively, on unanimity or qualified majority voting (QMV) within the Council.

See 2501st Council meeting, External Relations, Luxembourg, 14 April 2003 (8220/03 (Press 105)) at <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>.

## Internal Market

---

### Registration of Community Designs from 1 April 2003

The Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) in Alicante registers Community designs since 1 April under the EU's new Community system for the protection of designs. Requests have been possible since January this year. The registration procedure is simple and inexpensive. Unregistered designs will also be protected.

The new system aims at reducing legal

obstacles to the circulation of design goods within the internal market as well as ensuring fair competition in this respect. It will also help fight counterfeiting and piracy. See full text at [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/en/indprop/design/index.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/indprop/design/index.htm).

Further practical details are available at <http://oami.eu.int/>.

### Better lawmaking

Parliament adopted on 8 April, two non-binding resolutions drafted by MEP Zimeray on the Commission's report on *Better lawmaking for 2000 and 2001*. It pointed out that legislative and regulatory inflation in member states and at Community level weakens the rule of law and alienates citizens from their institutions.

Drafting Laws should be drafted more simply and clearly, in line with the

principles of subsidiarity and proportionality to be properly used by the citizens. Parliament called on the Council and the Commission to assume their responsibilities in this area and committed itself to doing the same. It deplored the proliferation of preparatory documents issued by the Commission. The report (A5-0100/2003) can be downloaded from [http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm), under latest reports.

## Internet

---

### New Commission proposals to review cyber crime strategies

The European Commission has adopted a communication to invite member states to review their strategies in terms of cyber crime.

In its communication, the Commission calls for member states to set voluntary targets to accelerate the transition from eCommerce to cyber crime - using electronic tools to integrate all company procedures. The Commission believes that fixing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Acceptable and Temporal)

targets would facilitate the assessment of company procedures as well as the identification of governmental best practices.

Moreover, the communication invites member states and regions to increase information sharing on their initiatives in the field of cyber crime and to further promote the European SME support network for cyber crime in the framework of the eEurope action plan 2005.

### Report on implementation on the legal protection of services directive

The first Commission report on the implementation of Directive 98/84/EC on the legal protection of services was released on 24 April (COM(2003)198).

The Directive aims at providing a minimum level of legal protection within the EU of electronic pay services against piracy by prohibiting all commercial manufacturing, distribution and marketing activities related to pirate smart cards and other devices circumventing the access protection of pay TV, radio and Internet services.

It describes and analyses the facts relating to the key provisions of the Directive and their implementation in national legislation and is based upon information provided by member states as well as the views expressed by market players, in particular on the development of piracy and the enforcement by national authorities, and the Commission's own views and analysis. See full report at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/en/media/condac/functioning/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/media/condac/functioning/index.htm).

## Telecommunications

---

### Commission new proposal on the eTEN programme available

On 29 April, the European Commission presented its proposal amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/95/EC, which lays down general rules for granting Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks (eTEN).

The general objective of this action is to grant Community contribution to projects of common interest in the field of trans-European telecommunications networks. The purpose of the proposed amendment to the regulation is to raise

the maximum level of aid which may be granted to a project from the present limit of 10% to 30% of the total investment in the project.

eTEN has been re-oriented to become a key implementing tool for eEurope 2005. Its main focus will be the practical realisation of eEurope general interest services objectives. See the Commission proposal (COM(2003)220) at [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003\\_0220\\_en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003_0220_en01.pdf).

## Telecommunications

---

### France presents a new decree to adjust universal service

On 10 April, France responded to the formal letter of notice sent by the European Commission regarding universal service with the adoption of a decree amending its postal and telecommunications law.

Paris had failed to comply with the Court of Justice in applying the provisions governing universal service, which concerns the management of public phone directory and information

services.

Universal service is fully administered by the traditional operator in all member states but France, where is jointly funded by other operators through a tax fee paid to France Telecom.

The decree however would reduce the taxes paid by other operators but would not abolish the French exemption.

## Trade Policy

---

### Current state of play on WTO Negotiations and services

The European Parliament published on 12 March its opinion on the opening of services as part of the ongoing WTO negotiations under the 2001 Doha Development Agenda. On 14 April, the External relations Council held a detailed exchange of views on the EU's draft initial offer on services. The Council had invited the Article 133 Committee to examine them and to come forward with appropriate solutions as soon as possible. The Committee in turn, gave its approval with a qualified majority vote (QMV).

The only requests that are available in full are those from the EU, which were leaked and published in February 2003. Moreover, the European Commission lodged its preliminary offers on 29 April and published them in full (see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/index_en.htm)).

The initial offer covers IT and professional services, but do not cover audiovisual, education, health and social services.

15 WTO member states had filed an initial GATS offer up to 10 April. The countries that have submitted initial offers are: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, US and Uruguay.

The EU failed to meet the 31 March deadline for submitting initial offers. Currently, EU member states and the Commission are trying to overcome disagreement over certain parts of the Commission's draft initial offer e.g. Mode 4.

A public hearing on GATS - WTO Negotiations on trade in services will be held at the European Parliament on 26 May.

For further information visit:

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

<http://gats-info.eu.int/>

<http://www.gatswatch.org/>.

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

We're on the Web!  
Visit [www.eblida.org](http://www.eblida.org)

For further information  
contact:  
Carmen Morlon  
EU Information Officer,  
[morlon@nblcl.nl](mailto:morlon@nblcl.nl)

PO Box 43300  
NL-2504 The Hague  
The Netherlands  
Tel.:  
+31(0) 70 309 06 08  
Fax:  
+31(0) 70 309 07 08

### Information sources used include

Bulletin Quotidien Europe  
Council Press Office Newsroom,  
<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>  
EUR-Lex: European Union law <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>  
Europa, <http://europa.eu.int/>  
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>  
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.europa.eu.int/CD/application/pif/resources/shtml/common/home/home.html>.  
EBLIDA Hot News electronic provides links to calls and programmes!

Calls are in general published in the **C** series of the Official Journal (OJ) of the European Communities, which comprises information and notices issued by the institutions of the Union, such as preparatory legislative documents and questions put by Members of Parliament to the Commission and Council.

The **C** series is available on-line via EUR-Lex, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>. Please note that the **CE** edition of the Official Journal, which is only available online, now publishes the explanatory statement for all Commission proposals. Henceforth the two-column presentation of the amended proposal will be replaced by two columns of continuous text. The text that has been deleted in the amended proposal will be struck through with a line, and new or replacement text will be underlined.

### 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.