



November 2003

EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

Highlights:

- Community action programme to promote European Citizenship, p.1
- EBLIDA participates in the CALIMERA project, p. 2
- Education and Training 2010, p. 6
- Conferences & workshops, p. 14

EBLIDA
PO Box 16359
NL- 2500 BJ The Hague
Tel.: +31 70 309 05 51
Fax: +31 70 309 05 58
<http://www.eblida.org>

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Parliament calls for tougher measures against counterfeiting and piracy

A new regulation on counterfeit and pirated goods was adopted last July (*See OJ no 2003/L 196, p. 7-14 of 2 August 2003 at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>*). The regulation, due to enter into force on 1 July 2004, will replace Regulation 3295/94. The innovations include e.g. the scope to cover new property rights to increase consumer protection; the enhancement of the quality of information to be provided by right holders to customs when applying for action.

The Commission also presented, in January, a proposal for a directive on enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) aimed at harmonising national legislation on enforcement and establishing a broad framework for the exchange of information between the competent national authorities. If adopted, the directive would guarantee equal rights for all right holders in the EU, reinforce measures against offenders and so deter counterfeiters and pirates.

On 27 November, Parliament's Legal affairs committee adopted the report by MEP Fourtoun on the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs), by 28 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions, with amendments. The directive aims at combating counterfeiting and piracy in the single market.

In its amendments, the committee, by proposing that the directive should not be restricted to cases where IPRs are infringed for commercial purposes or where an infringement causes significant harm to the right holder, wants to widen its scope in the area of civil and administrative measures.

A minimalist provision on criminal penalties was also adopted hoping that recent and forthcoming developments will eventually make it possible to introduce them, either in this directive, or by means of a framework decision under the third pillar.

Continued in Page 5

Information Society

Community action programme to promote European Citizenship

On 20 November, Parliament adopted by 371 votes in favour, 62 against and 10 abstentions a non-binding resolution on a Community action programme which aims at adopting an act providing a basis for grants towards the promotion of active European citizenship for a period of five years (2004-2008).

In its proposal, the Commission suggests a budget of € 113.092 m. MEPs increased the budget to € 149.192.300 m and wanted the programme to be extended so that it will provide legal basis for **InfoPoints** - € 5 million are foreseen for their financing.

The Commission however does not approve amendments seeking to widen the scope of the programme; it also rejects the amendment on InfoPoints.

For several years support to promote European citizenship has been provided for under Part A and B of the EU's budget. The Commission DG for Press and Communication recently informed InfoPoints that it has cancelled, with effect from January 2004, payment of grants for operating expenses which have until now helped to support these organisations. They include co-financing for the operating costs

Continued in Page 10

Table of Contents

Parliament calls for tougher measures against counterfeiting and piracy	1
Community action programme to promote European Citizenship	1
EBLIDA participates in the CALIMERA project	2
EBLIDA Executive Committee meets in The Hague	2
Council debate on unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices	3
Commission hearing on measures to simplify and speed up small claims litigation	3
Parliament Resolution on Euromed	3
EU relations with non-industrialised regions	4
Parliament Resolution on second Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004-2006	4
New cooperation agreements with Morocco, Russia and Tunisia underway	4
Community action programme for cultural organisations	5
Public consultation on the future of cultural cooperation in the EU	5
Erasmus Mundus Programme (2004-2008)	6
eLearning programme 2004-2006	6
Education and Training 2010	6
Community action programme for education and training organisations	7
Turin Declaration to assist EU neighbours' education	7
CoE, Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education	7
Comenius Week	7
What's new in the OJ?	
European funding...opportunities	
Written questions	
Netd@ys Europe, new media to promote education and culture	8
Commission monitoring reports on the state of preparations for membership	8
Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean Area	8
Community funding for research projects	9
Report on Investing in research: an action plan for Europe, Investment in Research - 3% of GDP by 2010	9
Results of first calls for proposals of the EU FP6 released	9
IDABC, Interoperable eGovernment Services to public administrations, businesses and citizens	10
Motions for resolutions on market regulations and competition rules for the liberal professions	10
eEurope, new Regulation establishing ENISA	11
IPv6 Task Force Releases Call for Action at EU Level	11
Action Plan on Safer use of the Internet	11
Evaluation of the Community Action Plan on safer use of the Internet	11
Commission report on the implementation of the EU Telecoms Package	12
Eighth Commission report on implementation of the EU Telecoms Package	12
eTEN, increased EU subsidy for electronic Trans European Networks	12
EU finance ministers failed to reach agreement on pan-European VAT reduced rates	13
Foreign Sales Corporations, the imposition of countermeasures on US products	13
Community action programme to promote youth organisations	13
Conferences and workshops	14



Merry Christmas

Lobbying for archives and libraries

EBLIDA participates in the CALIMERA project

CALIMERA acronym stands for *Cultural Applications: Local Institutions Mediating Electronic Resource Access*. This 18-month duration European Commission funded Co-ordination Action is bringing local institutions, political authorities and the technological industry partners together in order to identify technological developments applicable by local libraries, archives and museums to the services they provide for European citizens' access to knowledge and culture.

EBLIDA will attend the kick-off meeting in Lisbon on 5th December 2003. As a core partner EBLIDA leads Work Package 4 "Dissemination, networking and training", being

overall responsible for the quality assurance of the dissemination tasks focused on international networking.

The large number of European countries involved, including the accession and eastern ones will give EBLIDA the opportunity to extend its network and build up its presence in the area, in line with the EBLIDA *Strategy for the future* approved by its annual Council in 2001.

Go to the European Commission DG for Information Society for more information: http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_e/digicult/community.htm.

EBLIDA Executive Committee meets in The Hague

<http://www.eblida.org>

The EBLIDA Executive Committee last meeting was held in The Hague on 24 and 25 October. Jan Ewout van der Putten, EBLIDA President, welcomed the Executive members at the new EBLIDA premises, hosted by the Netherlands Public Library Association.

The Executive Committee in-depth discussions resulted in decisions concerning the focus and future direction of EBLIDA. Among other outstanding decisions made by the Executive Committee, the EBLIDA Work Programme for 2003–2004, in which the

EBLIDA main lobbying and monitoring issues are described, was approved. The constitution of a Working Group for the review of the EBLIDA *Strategy for the Future* was decided, and the establishment of a new EBLIDA Working Group on Professional Education matters proposed.

The EBLIDA working group for the Strategy Review will meet in The Hague in January 2004 to start work on the draft that will be submitted to the EBLIDA members during the next annual Council meeting in Estoril (Portugal) on 14 and 15 May 2004.

Merry Christmas from the EBLIDA Secretariat!!

Carmen, Pia and Madeleine wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2004!!

Please note that the office will be closed from 22 to 26 December 2003; the next issue of Hot News will be out at the beginning of February next year.



Consumer Protection

Council debate on unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices

http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/cons_int/safe_shop/fair_bus_pract/index_en.htm

The Council held on 10 November, a policy debate on a proposal for a Directive concerning **unfair commercial practices in the Internal Market** (COM (2003)0356) amending directives 84/450/EEC, 97/7/EC and 98/27/EC. Work will continue on this proposal, pending Parliament first reading which is expected in February 2004.

This proposal followed the Green Paper on EU Consumer Protection of October 2001. It aims at harmonising unfair business-to-consumer (B2C) commercial practices to contribute to the functioning of the internal market whilst ensuring a high level of consumer protection. Some of the main key issues which emerged from the debate

include: a higher level of consumer protection to be ensured as well as consistency of the proposed directive with existing parallel Community legislation; some delegations were in favour of extending the scope to business-to-business (B2B) practices; some delegations considered the level of harmonisation adequate, others expressed doubts about e.g. the wording of a number of definitions.

The Council confirmed the need for the Commission to take further steps in this field. Parliament also adopted three resolutions (March 2003) expressing support for reform based on a framework directive governing unfair commercial practices.

Commission hearing on measures to simplify and speed up small claims litigation

The Commission presented on 20 December 2002 a Green Paper (COM (2002)0746) to launch a consultation on a European order for payment procedure and on measures to simplify and speed up **small claims litigation**.

On 14 January this year, the Commission presented a Green Paper (COM (2002)0654) to launch a consultation on a number of legal questions on the conversion of the **Rome Convention (1980)** on the law applicable to contractual obligations into a Community instrument and its modernisation. On 12 December this year,

the Commission will hold a public hearing on this subject. See the Green Paper, a discussion paper prepared for the hearing and the registration form at http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_public_en.htm.

Parliament in turn was authorised in May to draw up an own-initiative report. MEP Gargani, rapporteur for the Legal affairs committee will present its draft report in January 2004. Vote in plenary is scheduled for February 2004.

Co-operation with third countries

Parliament Resolution on Euromed

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/index.htm

On 20 November, the Council and Commission made statements on Euromed. Parliament in turn, adopted a joint resolution and supported the establishment of the parliamentary assembly (EMPA).

The Conference of EU and Mediterranean Foreign ministers in Barcelona (1995) marked the start of a new "partnership" phase of the relationship including bilateral and multilateral or regional cooperation

(called *Barcelona Process* or *Euro-Mediterranean Partnership*). The 12 Mediterranean Partners are Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia (Maghreb); Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Syria (Mashrek); Turkey, Cyprus and Malta; Libya currently has observer status at certain meetings.

The last Euro-Mediterranean Economic and Social summit was held in Malta on 6 and 7 November.

Procedure terminated

EU relations with non-industrialised regions

On 20 November, Parliament adopted a non-binding resolution on a Community action programme for bodies promoting centres, institutes and networks specialising in the analysis of relations between the EU and certain non-industrialised regions in the world, for a period of three years (2004-2006).

Parliament added that the Commission must publish calls for proposals to award the grants. However, these grants may be awarded without publication of a call for proposals when the budget heading names a beneficiary explicitly. The same applies when the budget identifies beneficiaries and the amounts allocated to each of them, if the

total amount of the budget line concerned is entirely pre-assigned by the budgetary authority. Activities supported should contribute to increase understanding and dialogue between the EU, the regions covered by the ALA, MEDA, TACIS and CARDS Regulations and the candidate countries and to reinforce **social, cultural and human partnership**.

See Commission proposal (COM (2003)0280) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; the report by MEP Sacredeus (A5-0384/2003) awaiting Council final decision can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm under latest reports.

Parliament Resolution on second Northern Dimension Action Plan 2004-2006

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/

At the European Council held on 16 and 17 October, the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan was endorsed to pursue the Northern Dimension policies beyond 2003. Parliament adopted on 20 November a joint resolution on the EU's Northern Dimension welcoming the second action plan as an important part of the development of the Northern Dimension policies and an important contribution to the region concerned.

The Northern Dimension covers the Baltic Sea region, Arctic Sea region and North-West Russia. It addresses the specific

challenges of those regions and aims to increase cooperation between the fifteen, the EU accession countries and Russia. It is implemented within the framework of the Europe Agreements with the Baltic States, the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia and the EEA regulations. The areas for cooperation are the environment, nuclear safety, energy, Kaliningrad, infrastructure, business, Justice and Home Affairs, **social development and others**. The Northern Dimension operates through the EU's financial instruments available for the region: PHARE, TACIS and INTERREG.

New cooperation agreements with Morocco, Russia and Tunisia underway

On 6 November, the EU and the **Russian Federation** signed a new agreement on cooperation for science and technology. It will be strengthened by the action plan to enhance cooperation in S&T adopted in 2002. There have been over 500 participants from Russia with a total budget requested of around € 75 million within the first call for proposals for FP6. The Council Decision was published in the [Official Journal](#) no 2003/L 299/, p. 20-21 (18 November 2003). Visit <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/countries/russia.html>.

In addition, the Industry committee adopted on 3 November, two reports by MEP

Berenguer Fuster approving to conclude scientific and technological cooperation agreements with **Morocco** (A5-0403/2003) and between the EC and the **Tunisian Republic** (A5-0404/2003).

The costs associated with monitoring and implementing the agreements will be charged to the specific budget headings of the programmes under the Community RTD framework programme (Chapter B6-6013). In the case of Tunisia, the financing of the expenditure provided for only concerns the FP6. The reports, waiting vote in plenary, scheduled for December, can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm under latest reports.

Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

Parliament calls for tougher measures against counterfeiting and piracy

Continued from Page 1

MEPs also argued that member states should ensure that the judicial authorities take due account of each individual case when choosing penalties. The courts should be able to order Internet Service Providers to hand over relevant information on the origin of the "infringing goods" to right holders, while taking into account data protection rules.

Moreover, the committee agreed with the Commission on the need to apply Community law on intellectual property to avoid the creation of barriers to legitimate trade. However, it adopted an amendment saying this should not be done in a way that would facilitate anti-competitive behaviour.

Another amendment calls on the Commission to consider measures to counter the problem of "look-alike products" which do not infringe any intellectual or industrial property rights but mislead consumers.

The report is awaiting vote in plenary, scheduled for January 2004; [See COM \(2003\)0046](#) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>. Further information on these measures can be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/customs/counterfeit_piracy/index_en.htm or http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/indprop/piracy/index.htm.

*Co decision procedure
First reading*

Culture

Community action programme for cultural organisations

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/other_actions/support_eur_org/support_en.html

On 6 November, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution drafted by MEP Iivari on an action programme for cultural organisations. Parliament voted to shorten the programme; MEPs want it to start on 1 January 2004 and end on 31 December 2006 instead of 2008. The budget is thus reduced from €30.92 million to €22.764 million. Parliament also laid down amendments relating to named organisations which may be awarded an operating grant directly and those organisations which receive a grant following a call for proposals in accordance with certain criteria. The provisions relating to the gradual decrease of grants were deleted.

On 24 November, Culture ministers reached unanimous political agreement on a common

position, with some amendments on the selection of beneficiaries for subsidies; the proposed period and allocated budget.

The draft proposal puts forward basic acts for grants currently covered by Part A of the budget. In principle, the basic acts should be adopted by the legislature in order to be applicable by 2004. If not, the Commission will propose transitional derogations enabling grants to be awarded in 2004, pending adoption of the basic acts.

The Commission communication (COM (2003)0275) can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; the Iivari report (A5-0359/2003) can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm under latest reports.

*Co decision procedure
Second reading*

Public consultation on the future of cultural cooperation in the EU

http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/archive/consult_pub_en.html

The Commission received some 250 contributions in response to its public consultation (from 14 April to 10 July) on the future of the culture programme. Replies came mainly from European networks, local associations, museums, cultural contact points, foundations, ministries, regional and professional bodies, trade unions as well as

individuals from all member states, candidate countries and Norway.

A summary of the responses received, in particular concerning the role of the EU in the field of culture and the types of action to be supported is available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/archive/pdf/consult_result_en.pdf.

Education

*Co decision procedure
Second reading*

Erasmus Mundus Programme (2004-2008)

On 11 November, the Commission adopted its opinion and accepted six amendments that contribute to clarifying certain aspects of the decision establishing the Erasmus Mundus programme. These concern: clarifying that higher professional training is part of higher education; introducing a new recital referring to the renewal of the existing programmes and the promotion of access to Erasmus Mundus for European students; reinforcing the notion of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and references to the learning and use of two languages (without prejudice to the language of instruction)

already covered in the annex. The Commission also accepted the amendment proposing a budget of € 230 m; this amount is in line with the Commission's financial programming for the enlarged EU.

See Commission opinion (COM (2003) 0694) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

Education ministers in turn, adopted unanimously, without debate, Parliament's amendments on 25 November. The Decision is awaiting publication in the Official Journal.

eLearning programme 2004-2006

On 11 November, the Commission adopted its opinion and accepted the Parliament's amendment setting the financial framework for the implementation of this programme at € 44 million.

See Commission opinion (COM (2003)

0699) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

Education ministers in turn, adopted unanimously, without debate, the Parliament's amendment on 25 November. It is awaiting publication in the OJ.

*Co decision procedure
Second reading*

Education and Training 2010

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/et_2010_en.html

On 11 November, Commissioner Reding (DG for Education and Culture) presented a communication stressing the shortcomings in the reform of the European training and education systems, and making recommendations to speed up progress. The assessment reveals that too little progress has been made regarding the agreed objectives and that the Union as a whole remains well behind its main competitors e.g. inadequate investment in human resources, the level of education among Europeans remains inadequate, a teacher shortage threatens.

According to the communication, too few adults are engaged in **lifelong learning**. The Commission feels it is essential to define truly coherent and comprehensive lifelong learning strategies, ensure effective interaction between all the links of the learning chain and set national reforms within the European context. A summary of national reports on the implementation of the Resolution on Lifelong Learning is available at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html.

This communication, transmitted to Council and Parliament on 12 November, will serve as a basis for the joint report on the implementation of the *Education and Training 2010* programme, to be presented to the European Council in March 2004. Parliament however will not deliver an opinion on this communication. Education ministers in turn, held an exchange of views at their meeting on 24 November.

The *Education & Training 2010* work programme has been implemented in stages since 2001.

The draft joint interim report (COM (2003) 685) can be downloaded from http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/doc/com_2003_685-a1_23013_en.pdf.

Education

Community action programme for education and training organisations

On 6 November, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution drafted by MEP Pack on an action programme for education and training organisations and made some amendments to the Commission's proposal.

MEPs say that grants should be awarded by means of a call for proposal for European associations active in the field of education or training, higher education concerning European integration, including Jean Monnet chairs, contributing to the achievement of the future objectives of education and training systems in Europe and for the training of national judges in the field of European law and for organisations for judicial cooperation. In addition, a number of amendments were adopted adjusting the proposed breakdown of funds

between the different actions: the resources to be committed under **Action 1** will be between 64% and 68% of the total budget available; under **Action 3A** will be between 19% and 21%; under **Action 3B** will be between 7% and 9%.

On 24 November, Education ministers reached unanimous political agreement on a common position, with some amendments mainly on the duration of the programme and the budget, which is cut from € 129.620 to € 77 million.

See Commission communication (COM (2003) 0273) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; see the Pack report (A5-0357/2003) at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

*Co decision procedure
Second reading*

Turin Declaration to assist EU neighbours' education

On 7 November, 55 countries agreed on a declaration calling for assistance to EU neighbouring countries in reforming and developing their vocational education and training. The declaration follows a three-day international conference, 'Learning Matters' organised by the European Training Foundation (ETF).

Among the future challenges for vocational education and training reform in ETF partner countries, the Turin-declaration

underlines the need for lifelong and life-wide access to education and training for all, with particular attention to disadvantaged groups.

Furthermore, the need for a mentality change on the importance of lifelong learning, skills and competences and human resource development is highlighted in the document. See Turin Declaration at http://learningmatters.etf.eu.int/attach/final_EN.pdf; for further information on ETF visit <http://www.etf.eu.int/>.

CoE, Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education

In the final declaration of the Athens conference entitled "Intercultural education: managing diversity, strengthening democracy" held from 10 to 12 November, Education ministers from the 48 states party to the Council of Europe's Cultural Convention stressed the importance of quality of education and of making teaching and learning democracy and intercultural

education key components of educational policy reform.

They agreed to widen the concept of intercultural education, and pointed out that the educational process should be used as a means of opening up to other cultures and promoting human rights, inter-religious dialogue and "Euro-Arab" relations.

Comenius Week

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/comenius/week03/info_en.html

The European Commission run the second Comenius Week from 8 to 14 November. Scores of events gave the general public in the 30 countries involved a sight of projects that have led to cross-border partnerships in

school teaching in Europe.

Comenius is a strand of the **Socrates programme** which targets schooling from the nursery to the secondary stages.

Education

Netd@ys Europe, new media to promote education and culture



Netd@ys Europe aims at promoting the use of new media in the areas of education and culture and at providing participants with the opportunity to develop the skills to acquire and to exchange information on a range of themes. The initiative culminates in a showcase week, which was held this year from 17 to 23 November, with online and offline events all around Europe and beyond.

More than 30 countries participate, including all EU accession countries. This year's theme was "Dialogue between Cultures". Examples

of projects involving libraries include e.g. Integration and the Internet (<http://www.waterfordcity.ie>), website stories – online preparation of the kids for Kids Festival (<http://www.kidsforkidsfestival.com/> or <http://www.3rd-ws.org/>), Back through the Web, Multicultural book reviews, Conor and Norah in Zimbabwe, Celbridge Community Library & Intel Ireland Free Internet Training Classes, videOdour library.

Further information on Netd@ys can be found at <http://www.netdayseurope.org/>.

Enlargement

Commission monitoring reports on the state of preparations for membership

On 5 November, the Commission released three regular reports on the progress towards accession of Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey for 2003, accompanied by a strategy paper. See

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/report_2003/index.htm.

At the same time, the Commission released ten country monitoring reports on the acceding countries, accompanied by a summary comprehensive monitoring report covering the main overall findings. See http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2003/com2003_0675en01.pdf.

Efforts will now focus on resolving the outstanding issues in the transposition and implementation of the *Acquis*, so that all remaining gaps may be closed by the time of

accession. PHARE and the support programmes for Cyprus and Malta will come to an end in the new member states, together with the Union's two other main pre-accession assistance programmes, ISPA and SAPARD, by 31 December 2003, although implementation will continue after accession.

Nevertheless, implementation of PHARE and the support programmes for Cyprus and Malta decided before 1 January 2004 will continue over the following three years and it will be carried out under responsibility of the National Fund and the implementing agencies of the new member states. The ISPA and SAPARD programmes (and the economic and social cohesion component of PHARE) will be succeeded by the larger Cohesion Fund and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) respectively.

Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean Area

On 24 November, the High-Level Advisory Group presented a report which centres on around 20 proposals for practical action aimed at using **education, mobility and the media** as means to promote equality, diversity and mutual understanding. The group's recommendations focus on practical action to follow up three guidelines: how to make education influence learning about

others and respecting diversity; how to promote mobility and benefit from know-how, skills and better social practice; how the media can act as a key tool for promoting equality and mutual knowledge. See http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/ind_coop_programmes/med/index.htm.

EU Research and Development

Community funding for research projects

On 19 November, Parliament adopted a resolution based loosely on the draft by MEP Liese, with 300 votes in favour, 210 against and 19 abstentions, making some amendments to the Commission's proposal on the RTD programme "Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area" (2002-2006).

It should be noted that the rapporteur, who

had been advocating a compromise amendment, "disassociated" himself with the outcome of the vote. The European Commission adopted its modified proposal on 26 November (COM (2003) 0749), available from <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; the Liese report (A5-0369/2003) can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm under latest reports.

Report on Investing in research: an action plan for Europe Investment in Research - 3% of GDP by 2010

On 18 November, Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report drafted by MEP Linkohr on investment in research, calling on member states to increase research expenditure to 3% of GDP by 2010. Parliament calls for an increase also in FP6, and thus calls for an increase in the 7th research framework programme budget to €30 billion for the whole period to allow for enlargement.

In the context of FP6, Parliament also called for the ideas of 'networks of excellence' and 'integrated projects' to be geared more closely to the notion of the ERA, and thus for adjustments to be made, mainly regarding the size of projects, in terms both of the number of project partners and of the financial volumes involved. Other points also made were: the importance of intellectual property rights in State institutes and public-private

partnerships; member states should envisage tax incentives for private research activities as well as direct support for research; member states and the Commission should make greater use of the Structural Funds for R&D. MEPs also call for the establishment of a European Research Council; the body should primarily be a funding rather than an advisory body.

The Commission has put forward a package of measures on ways of enabling the EU to raise its research expenditure to 3% of gross domestic product (GDP), on the understanding that one third is to be accounted for by public funds and two thirds provided by the private sector. See COM (2003)0226 at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; see Linkohr report (A5-0389/2003) at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

*Own-initiative report
Procedure terminated*

Results of first calls for proposals of the EU FP6 released

The first round of calls for proposals under FP6 were published (17 December 2002) closed in March-April. The 11, 596 proposals received, involving 106 117 participants from over 50 countries, have been evaluated by independent experts and contracts are now being negotiated for those projects selected for funding. The high level of interest means however that it will probably be possible to fund only one in six projects overall.

Results after evaluation have shown that all the topics identified as priorities by FP6 have

been covered; the quality of proposals was high; Integrated Projects were the most popular; there was a low level of industrial participation in Networks of Excellence, where some proposals show that the use of this instrument is not yet clear to all partners. A second round of calls is now being prepared for publication. Details of all calls are available from http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/calls_en.cfm or <http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm>; http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/firstcallresult_en.html.

Information Society

IDABC, Interoperable eGovernment Services to public administrations, businesses and citizens

*Co decision procedure
Second reading*

On 18 November, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution drafted by MEP Read and approved the Commission's proposal on IDABC, subject to a few amendments. Adoption at first reading made the implementation of the programme more flexible by deleting references to how specifically the budget should be spent, although it agreed with the overall financial reference amounts for the two periods. MEPs also stressed that the programme would need to be adaptable to future developments, as priorities change and technology moves on. The overall budget

agreed by Parliament is €59.1 million (2005-2006). In addition, the Committee of Regions adopted its opinion on 20 November; Telecommunications ministers in turn, reached a political agreement for a common position also on 20 November.

The IDABC programme follows on from the IDA II Programme, which expires on 31 December 2004. See COM (2003) 406 at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; the Read report (A5-0375/2003) can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

Community action programme to promote European Citizenship

Continued from Page 1

of e.g. European think-tanks and organisations advancing the idea of Europe; activities of associations and federations of European interest; town twinning; measures for civil society.

(O-0068/2003 - B5-0413/2003)

On the same day at plenary, MEP Rocard, Chair of the Culture Committee, asked the Commission what steps it will take to ensure that the work of the networks and InfoPoints is able to continue unimpeded in a year in which elections to the Parliament

will take place. MEP Rocard also wants to know by what means the Commission will ensure that the future funding for this work is made available and when will the Commission take a decision about future funding arrangements.

The draft decision is awaiting vote in plenary. See (COM (2003) 0276) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; the Ruhle report (A5-0368/2003) can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

Internal Market

Motions for resolutions on market regulations and competition rules for the liberal professions

(B5-0430/2003, B5-0431/2003, B5-0432/2003)

On 6 November, following the debate on liberal professions (8 October), Parliament voted on a joint resolution. The vote had been postponed to this plenary session for the political groups to draw up a joint resolution.

MEPs want to know if the Commission can confirm that rules which are necessary, in the

specific context of each profession, in order to ensure the impartiality, competence, integrity and responsibility of the members of that profession or to prevent conflicts of interest and misleading advertising, and which, in addition, do not represent obstacles to the free movement of services, are not held to be restrictions of competition. They also want to know what initiatives the European Commission intends to take in order to ensure full protection of the general interest and clients' rights.

Internet

eEurope, new Regulation establishing ENISA

On 19 November, in adopting a series of compromise amendments agreed between Parliament and Council, MEPs enable the regulation setting up a new European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) to be adopted at first reading and thus within the term of this Parliament. The amendments focus on the tasks of the new agency, its operational structure, the initial evaluation of its work and the seat of the agency.

In turn, Telecom ministers reached an agreement on 20 November on the new

Agency. ENISA will thus start its operations at the beginning of 2004. It will develop a culture of network and information security for the benefit of citizens, consumers, businesses and public sector organisations in the EU, provide assistance and deliver advice to the Commission and member states on issues related to network and information security. The Agency's budget is €24.3 million (2004-2008). On the basis of an evaluation of the working practices and the impact of the Agency it should be decided whether the Agency should continue its work beyond 2008.

IPv6 Task Force Releases Call for Action at EU Level

On 5 November, the European IPv6 Task Force released its latest report on deployment of the new Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6). This includes a call for a number of specific actions to be taken at European level.

IPv6 is a key technology that enables convergence of the Internet with mobile communications, and is an area in which Europe is leading the world. The IPv6 Task Force receives support from IST - part of

FP6. Download a copy of the report at http://www.eu.ipv6tf.org/PublicDocuments/status_and_required_v1.8.pdf.

In February 2002, the Commission adopted a communication on *IPv6: Priorities for Action* calling for a European action plan to accelerate the rollout of Internet Protocol version 6. This report is a follow-up on the previous set of recommendations released in January 2002. Further information can be found at <http://www.eu.ipv6tf.org/>.

Action Plan on Safer use of the Internet

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/iap/index_en.htm

The deadline for receipt of proposals under the Safer Internet Action Plan (SIAP) Phase II is 14 November. Two further deadlines have been set for hotlines and awareness nodes: 16 March 2004 and 15 June 2004. A call for proposals for the Safer Internet programme was published on 4 September 2003.

SIAP includes a total of 7 actions. Two networks (hotlines, for reporting illegal

content, and awareness-raising) will each have national nodes - hopefully in all member states - and a network coordinator.

In addition, there are actions for benchmarking filtering software and services, quality labels for Internet Service Providers to assist users in identifying providers that adhere to codes of conduct, and applied research in children's use of new media.

Evaluation of the Community Action Plan on safer use of the Internet

On 3 November, the European Commission presented its report concerning the evaluation of the multi annual Community action plan on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies by combating illegal and harmful content primarily in the area of the protection of children and minors (1999-2002). The Decision was amended by Decision

1151/2003/EC (16 June 2003) extending the duration of the programme until 31 December 2004, increasing the indicative budget by € 13.3 million and making a number of changes to the title and scope of the programme and to its implementing actions. The Decision as amended provides in article 6(4) that at the end of four years, the Commission shall submit an evaluation

report on the results obtained in implementing the action plan.

The Commission may present, on the basis of those results, proposals for adjusting the

orientation of the action plan. The report is awaiting consultation at Parliament. See COM (2003)0653 and COM (2001) 0690 (follow-up document) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

Telecommunications

Commission report on the implementation of the EU Telecoms Package

With this report, adopted on 19 November, the Commission wants member states to focus attention on key issues which need to be addressed in the transposition process. The new regulatory framework entered into force in July this year. It is a complete overhaul of the first telecoms package whereby markets were liberalised in 1998.

As of 6 October, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Austria, Finland, Sweden and the UK had taken the necessary action to incorporate the Framework, Authorisations, Access and

Universal Service Directives into national law. Infringement proceedings (Article 226 of the Treaty) have been opened against Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal, which have not yet notified the Commission of transposition measures.

The report (COM (2003)0715), presented to Telecommunications ministers on 20 November, can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

Eighth Commission report on implementation of the EU Telecoms Package

In addition, in adopting an own-initiative resolution with 429 votes in favour 31 against and 36 abstentions on the eighth Commission report on the regulatory package on telecommunications on 18 November, Parliament called on the Commission to collate information on the state of play in the accession countries and their readiness to implement the new framework. The Commission should set out what technical assistance should be made available to facilitate implementation in cases where countries are unlikely to meet the requirements.

With regard to the telecoms sector, the

emphasis on access-based competition e.g. resale, local loop unbundling, and bit-stream access should not be regarded as an end in itself but as a route to fuller facilities-based competition. All member states must have effective dispute resolution procedures in place.

See the eighth report (COM (2002) 695) at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/annual_report/8threport/index_en.htm; consult the Clegg report (A5-0376/2003) at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

eTEN, increased EU subsidy for electronic Trans European Networks

On 18 November, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution approving the Commission proposal to change the way in which the funds already available to the eTEN (electronic Trans European Networks) programme are allocated.

At present, eTEN can only fund up to 10% of the total investment costs of a project at the deployment stage. Parliament agreed with the Commission's proposal that the 10% ceiling should be raised to 30%. A higher funding ceiling is needed to realise the full potential of those services identified as

ripe for development. Since the overall budget remains unchanged, this will mean the deployment of fewer but more focussed projects in the future. There are many examples of projects in a range of areas e.g. eInclusion, eLearning whose potential have been recognised but cannot secure sufficient financial backing to begin full deployment. See (COM (2003) 220) at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; the Read report (A5-0374/2003), awaiting Council common position, can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm, under latest reports.

*Own initiative report
Procedure terminated*

*Co decision procedure
First reading*

Trade Policy

EU finance ministers failed to reach agreement on pan-European VAT reduced rates

The Economic committee adopted by a large majority on 24 November, its report drafted by MEP Randzio-Plath on reduced VAT rates. The committee wants member states to be allowed to apply reduced VAT rates to a wider range of goods and services than suggested in the Commission proposal e.g. recorded music, provided this does not affect the functioning of the internal market.

According to the report, the current situation where **only certain cultural goods - books** - are eligible for reduced rates is highly unsatisfactory as these goods are in competition with each other. Therefore, the rapporteur calls on industry to commit to pass on the reduction of VAT in full to consumers. If done, as was the case when the VAT on books was reduced in Sweden two years ago, a reduction of VAT can have

a significant and sustained positive impact on demand. As regards the current scope of **Annex H**, the rapporteur is proposing to delete the reception of **broadcasting services** as maintaining the reduced rate for broadcasting services while it is not authorised for services supplied by electronic means is likely to result in distortion of competition.

The report (A5-0410/2003), waiting vote in plenary, scheduled for 3 December, can be consulted at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm under latest reports. The Commission, while proposing to enlarge Annex H of directive, does not wish to go as far as the committee. ECOFIN ministers also failed to reach agreement on 25 November.

Foreign Sales Corporations, the imposition of countermeasures on US

On 5 November, the European Commission adopted a proposal to impose countermeasures on selected US products in connection with the long-standing WTO dispute on the US Foreign Sales Corporations (FSC). The proposal is in line with the WTO authorisation, granted earlier this year, to apply countermeasures of up to \$4 billion following the failure of the US to comply with the WTO rulings.

The proposal, which has now been forwarded to the Council for adoption, provides for a gradual imposition of

countermeasures as from 1 March 2004 at the level of 5%, followed by monthly increases of 1% up to a ceiling of 17% to be reached in March 2005. It also includes a detailed list of products on which countermeasures may be applied. See <http://mkaccdb.eu.int/dsu/doc/ds108-26.doc>. Under the description on "Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry, manuscripts, typescripts and plans" (OJ L 290, 28.10.2002, p. 1) 1, 312 is the total average value of imports into the EU from the US during the period 1999-2001.

Youth Policy

Community action programme to promote youth organisations

On 6 November, MEPs adopted a legislative resolution drafted by MEP Prets on an action programme to promote youth organisations, making several amendments to the Commission's proposal.

MEPs did not take up the committee amendment relating to the length of the programme, which now remains three years. In addition, the resources allocated to the

European Youth Forum will be €2.2 million rather than €2 million. Education ministers reached a political agreement on a common position on 24 November.

The Commission communication (COM (2003)0272) can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>; the Prets report (A5-0358/2003) can be found at http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm under latest reports.

*Co decision procedure
Second reading*

EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

We're on the Web!
Visit www.eblida.org

For further information
contact:
Carmen Morlon
EU Information Officer,
morlon@debibliotheken.nl

PO Box 16359
NL-2500 BJ The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel.:
+31(0) 70 309 05 51
Fax:
+31(0) 70 309 05 58

Information sources used include

Bulletin Quotidien Europe
Council Press Office Newsroom,
<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>
European Parliament Press Service
http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index_en.htm
RAPID - Press and Communication Service of the European Commission,
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/welcome.htm>
EUR-Lex: European Union law <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>
Europa, <http://europa.eu.int/>
Various mailing lists

Calls for Tenders are published in the **S** series of the OJ as well as in the Tenders Electronic Daily database TED, <http://ted.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 **C E** 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.

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.