



November 2004

# EBLIDA Hot News

The EBLIDA newsletter on EU library & information society issues

## Highlights:

§ Lifelong Learning programme, p.1

§ EBLIDA Workshop on GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services), p. 2

§ Rome Convention, law applicable to contractual obligations , p. 4

§ A new EU strategy for Information Society beyond 2005 , p. 10

## Culture

### Work plan for Culture 2005-2006

On 16 November, Culture ministers adopted conclusions and agreed that the work plan for Culture 2005 and 2006 should be followed up in terms of addressees, tasks and timeframe and lead to concrete results. The Council will focus on five priorities to be achieved and implemented in the years 2005 and 2006, throughout which the Presidencies will guarantee a continuous and sustained follow-up.

A study on ways in which creativity, creative industries and public-private partnerships in the cultural sector already contribute to the **Lisbon targets** should be presented by the second half of 2005. In addition, a progress report recommending further action in the field of culture, cultural tourism and cultural industries, including the audiovisual sector should be presented by the first half of 2006.

### Coordination of digitisation

The National Representatives Group should become a strong European cooperative group with clear role by the second half 2005; the Commission in turn should present, by second half 2005, a report on European Community support for digitisation as well as a dynamic action plan after 2005 (follow-up of Lund action plan).

A **Culture Portal** to improve information on mobility of artists, mobility of works and intercultural dialogue should be created. In this context, the Commission is to present a project plan including the role to be played by Member States by the first half of 2005; a renewed and fully equipped Cultural Portal after implementation should be ready by the second half of 2006.

... Continues in Page 6

## Education

### Lifelong Learning programme

On 15 November, Education ministers held a debate on an action programme in the field of lifelong learning (2007-2013), which focused on the importance of the content of the **transversal programme** and its operational objectives e.g. language learning and information and communication technologies (ICT), which could be better achieved through integration in the sub-programmes.

Some delegations stressed that no preference should be given to any specific language but recognised however the value for European citizens of learning a **second foreign language**. In addition, there was a consensus on the need for a European 'Charter' establishing principles for **quality**

### of mobility.

The Commission proposed in July an integrated programme comprising **Comenius** (general education); **Erasmus** (higher education level); **Leonardo da Vinci**, (vocational education and training) and **Grundtvig** (adult education) as well as including a 'transversal' programme incorporating four key activities: policy development, language learning, innovative approaches and dissemination of project results, plus a **Jean Monnet** programme (European integration).

The action programme will be adopted under the co decision procedure, the opinion of Parliament being still awaited.

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## Lobbying for archives and libraries

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### EBLIDA Workshop on GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services)

EBLIDA in cooperation with SCOUNL (UK) are organising an EBLIDA Workshop on the relevant matter of trade agreements and their implications for libraries, archives and educational establishments in Europe.

Under the title "Trading in knowledge? - The World Trade Organisation and Libraries", the Workshop will take place on 2 and 3 March 2005 at the Møller Centre, in Cambridge (UK).

The programme will focus on discussing how WTO (World Trade Organisation) agreements like GATS and TRIPS (Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights), affect the functioning and services provided by libraries. Speakers at the Conference comprise representatives from

WTO, the academic world and the libraries and archive sectors.

If you like to participate, registration is available via Internet through the SCOUNL website:

[http://www.sconul.ac.uk/event\\_conf/WTO\\_Conference/WTOapplication](http://www.sconul.ac.uk/event_conf/WTO_Conference/WTOapplication). Participants are strongly encouraged to register for this important event before 31 December 2004!!!

For more practical information and a complete programme of the workshop, please contact the EBLIDA Secretariat or visit <http://www.eblida.org/>; [http://www.sconul.ac.uk/event\\_conf/WTO\\_Conference/wtoprogramme](http://www.sconul.ac.uk/event_conf/WTO_Conference/wtoprogramme). For background information please visit: <http://www.wto.org/>.

### Libraries and archives, the Public Domain and the Information Society for all

On 24 November, María Pía González Pereira, EBLIDA Director, attended a European Commission Workshop on Public Domain matters organised by the Information Society Directorate General in order to assess the actual implications of the public domain for libraries, archives and the scientific community. Discussions were focused on the possible need for a European Policy as such on this field and the interaction with other policy areas such as Copyright Legislation, Open Access initiatives, institutional funding, etc.

EBLIDA believes libraries and archives are a key to the Public Domain debate and have a leading role to play in the achievement of a knowledge and information society for all and in bridging the digital divide.

EBLIDA will closely follow discussions on this area and will actively promote and support European actions on this regards. In line with the DG Information Society main goal, a public survey has been recently launched under the title 'Public online consultation on the challenges for a European Information Society policy beyond 2005' (29 November 2004).

Representatives of the stakeholders involved are invited to submit their **comments by 16 January 2005**. For further information, [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=1507](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=1507) and/or [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/europe/2005/all\\_about/2010\\_challenges/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/2005/all_about/2010_challenges/index_en.htm).



**Pía, Carmen and Madeleine wish you a Merry Christmas!!**



**Happy New Year 2005 from the EBLIDA Secretariat!**



## Audiovisual

### Media 2007 programme

*Co decision procedure  
First reading*

On 16 November, Culture ministers held a debate on an action programme proposed by the Commission in July in the field of media for 2007-2013. The debate focused on the positive discrimination measures in favour of operators from markets with a lesser production capacity or a restricted language area and on the involvement of broadcasters in the Media 2007 programme.

Most delegations believed that the measures foreseen in the draft programme were

effective in helping reduce the imbalance between the countries with high and low production capacity. As regards TV broadcasting, while some delegations favoured direct support to broadcasters, they stated that actions should be limited to support to dubbing/subtitling and to independent producers.

Debate on budgetary provisions is postponed until a Decision on the Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 has been adopted.

### Film heritage and competitiveness of related industrial activities

*Co decision procedure  
First reading*

Pending Parliament's opinion, Culture ministers endorsed on 16 November a general approach on a draft Recommendation on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities.

The draft recommendation provides for the deposit of cinematographic works forming part of Member States audiovisual heritage as a way of preserving this European heritage, while ensuring the competitiveness

of the Community's film industry and of the related activities of conservation, restoration and exploitation. It covers the cataloguing of works, the creation of databases, and the use of films for educational purposes and cooperation between responsible institutions in the sector.

The draft recommendation follows on two resolutions adopted by the Council on 26 June 2000 [*OJ C 193 of 11 July 2000, p.1*] and on 24 November 2003 [*OJ C 295 of 5 December 2003, p. 5*].

### Protection of minors and human dignity and right of reply

*Co decision procedure  
First reading*

Pending Parliament's opinion, Culture ministers endorsed on 16 November a general approach on a draft Recommendation on the protection of minors and human dignity and on the right of reply in relation to the competitiveness of the European audiovisual and online information services industry.

The draft recommendation proposes that Member States consider the introduction of

measures regarding the right of reply in relation to online media.

It builds upon the original Council Recommendation 98/560/EC of 24 September 1998 [*OJ L 270 of 7 October 1998, p. 48*], which remains valid while responding to the new challenges both in quantitative (more "illegal" content) and qualitative terms (new platforms, new products) which technological developments bring in this field.

### European Audiovisual Observatory

<http://www.obs.coe.int/>

*Co decision procedure  
First reading*

Justice and Home Affairs ministers adopted on 25 October a Decision amending the Decision establishing the European Audiovisual Observatory (1999/784/EC, *OJ L 307 of 2 December 1999, p.61*) to extend the Community participation in the Observatory until the end of 2006. The European Audiovisual Observatory, which operates

within the legal framework of the Council of Europe, aims at gathering information and providing expertise to the audiovisual industry in Europe, mainly to SMEs, in e.g. fiscal and labour law, copyright and consumer protection law, while promoting a clearer view of the market.

## Consumer Protection

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

On 5 May 2004, Belgium set down the instruments of ratification for the **First Protocol** on the interpretation by the Court of Justice of the EC of the Convention on the law applicable to **contractual obligations**, opened for signature in Rome on 19 June 1980 (*OJ L 48 of 20 February 1989, p. 1*); the **Second Protocol** conferring on the European Court of Justice certain powers to interpret the Convention (*OJ L 48 of 20 February 1989, p. 17*); the **Convention on the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden** to the Convention and to the First

and Second Protocols on its interpretation by the Court of Justice, signed in Brussels on 29 November 1996 (*OJ C 15 of 15 January 1997, p. 10*).

The First Protocol entered into force on 1 August 2004 for Member States having already ratified it; the Second entered into force for all participating Member States on the same day; the Convention last referred to entered into force for Belgium on 1 August 2004.

### Unfair commercial practices

On 16 November, Culture ministers adopted a common position on a draft Directive aiming at harmonising rules in the EU on **unfair commercial practices**. The draft text defines the conditions that determine whether a commercial practice is unfair and contains a general prohibition of misleading and aggressive commercial practices, including unfair advertising.

Member States will be allowed to apply national provisions more prescriptive or restrictive than the Directive, which

implements minimum harmonisation clauses for six years from transposition.

The proposal updates former directives on: Protection of consumers in respect of distance contracts (*Directive 84/450/EEC and 97/7/EC*); Injunctions for the protection of consumer's interests (*Directive 98/27/EC*) and the distance marketing of consumer financial services (*Directive 2002/65/EC*).

The common position has been transmitted to Parliament for a second reading.

### A new judicial body to hear disputes between EU institutions

On 2 November, the General Affairs Council adopted a Decision establishing a new judicial body to hear disputes between the EU institutions, its officials and other staff, which aims at improving the operation of the Community court system by relieving the Court of First Instance of part of its present caseload.

The EU Civil Service Tribunal will exercise jurisdiction at first instance in European civil service disputes; its judgments may be appealed against, on points of law only, to the Court of First Instance. It will be composed of seven judges appointed by the Council for a six-year term, who will then elect the President for a three-year term.

## Co-operation with Third Countries

### EU-Russia Summit

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/russia/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/russia/intro/index.htm)

On 25 November, the EU hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> EU-Russia Summit in The Hague (Netherlands). The Summit welcomed the extension of the EU-Russia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) to the ten new EU Member States and discussed progress made towards the creation of the four

'common spaces': economic; a space of freedom, security and justice; external security and research and education, including culture.

International and regional issues e.g. the Middle East; terrorism; Moldova and the South Caucasus were also discussed.

### EU and India agree partnership plan

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/india/sum11\\_04/js.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/india/sum11_04/js.pdf)

At their fifth Summit, held on 8 November in The Hague (Netherlands), the EU and India agreed on a framework for a strategic partnership aimed at upgrading relations.

They agreed to strengthen the flow of students and scholars between the EU and India through the funding of an India-specific scholarship programme under **Erasmus Mundus**, with the opportunity for 1,000 Indian students to receive a scholarship for post-graduate studies in Europe.

They also agreed to promote exchanges, events and cooperation at all levels and adopted the **EU-India Joint Declaration on Cultural Relations**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/india/sum11\\_04/joint\\_cultural.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/india/sum11_04/joint_cultural.htm)].

The EU is both the leading foreign investor in India and its biggest trading partner. Similar strategic partnerships with Canada, China, Japan, Russia and the United States have also been established.

### European Training Foundation signs new project in MEDA region

<http://www.etf.eu.int/>

The European Commission and the European Training Foundation (ETF) signed on 16 November a contract for the implementation of a new regional EU project on Education and Training for Employment (ETE) in the Mediterranean region.

ETE is designed within the Barcelona process and financed by the Commission with a budget of € 5 million; it aims at

supporting the ten MEDA partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, West Bank & Gaza Strip) in the design of relevant Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) policies that can contribute to employment through a regional approach.

The ETF will implement the project under the responsibility of the Commission from 2005-2008.

### Switzerland participates in Media Community programmes

Switzerland is the first European country to take part in the Media Plus and Media Training programmes. The Agreement defines the conditions to be met as well as other relevant arrangements that will have to be in force at the moment the Agreement comes into force.

Projects and initiatives submitted will be subject to the same conditions, rules and procedures pertaining to these programmes as are applied to Member States. Switzerland will conform to Community provisions, including controls by Community bodies.

### Agreement on science and technology centre in Ukraine

General affairs ministers adopted on 22 November a Decision approving the accession of Moldova to the agreement

establishing a science and technology centre in Ukraine between Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the US.

### Western Balkans participation in Community programmes

On 22 November, General affairs ministers adopted five Decisions approving the signing of framework agreements with **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro** and the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** on the general principles for their participation in Community programmes.

Programmes open to participation - once the agreements enter into force - are, amongst others: combating **social exclusion** (2002-

2006); Community action programme to support specific activities in the field of **education and training** (2004-2006); **active European citizenship** (2004-2006); **Culture 2000** (2000-2006); **eContent Plus** (2004-2008); **e-Learning** (2004-2006); **Erasmus Mundus** (2004-2008); **Leonardo da Vinci II** (2000-2006); **Media Plus** and **Media Training** (2001-2006); **Safer Internet plus** (2005-2008); **FP6** (2002-2006); **Socrates II** (2000-2006) and **Youth** (2000-2006).

## Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

### EU strategy to enforce Intellectual Property Rights in third countries

The European Commission adopted on 10 November a strategy for the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) in third countries, which sets the guidelines for the Commission in the coming years towards a reduction of the level of IPR violations taking place worldwide. It follows a logical sequence of recent initiatives taken by the EU. Stress will now be placed on devising the right tools to enforce new legislation on intellectual property to help third countries fight counterfeiting.

The action plan focuses on effective implementation and enforcement of existing IPR laws. It proposes to identify priority countries where enforcement actions should be concentrated; to promote initiatives to raise public awareness about the impact of

counterfeiting (Guidebook on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights); to ensure that technical assistance focuses on IPR enforcement; to strengthen IPR enforcement clauses in bilateral agreements; to drive right holders to use dispute settlement mechanisms e.g. WTO dispute settlement in cases of evidence of violations of TRIPs, those included in bilateral agreements in case of non-compliance with the required standards of IPR protection. In addition, the Commission will support the creation of public-private partnerships for enforcement.

For further information, see:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/intell\\_property/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/sectoral/intell_property/index_en.htm);  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation\\_customs/customs/counterfeit\\_piracy/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/customs/counterfeit_piracy/index_en.htm).

## Culture

### Work plan for Culture 2005-2006

... Continued from Page 1

A Committee of museum experts to advice on ways to facilitate **European Collection Mobility** e.g. insurance (indemnities), standards setting on couriers and loan agreements, registration, digitisation should be developed and a report presented by the first half of 2005. Moreover, an action plan

on European collection mobility should be developed and implemented by the second half of 2006.

A report to assess taxation problems specific to **mobile artists in the EU** should be presented during the first half of 2006.

### Call for proposals for Culture 2000 for the year 2005 (Actions 1 and 2)

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/how\\_particip2000/pract\\_info/appel\\_2005\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/how_particip2000/pract_info/appel_2005_en.html)

The deadline for the submission of applications under the general Culture 2000 call for proposals was 15 October for all annual projects and translation projects and 29 October for all multi annual cooperation projects and cooperation projects in non-Community countries. Progress of the selection procedure can be followed up on the website. Applicants are due to be

informed of the results in May 2005.

The lists of all the cultural operators that took part in Culture 2000 as project leaders, co-organisers or associated partners are available at

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/how\\_particip2000/operators/operateurs\\_cult\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/how_particip2000/operators/operateurs_cult_en.html).

### European Capital of Culture

On 16 November, Culture ministers appointed Mr Charles Hennessy (Irish) and Mr Bert van Meggelen (Dutch) as members of the "European Capital of Culture"

selection panel, representing the Council for 2009. The Commission issues a report on the designation of the cities as Capitals of Culture (*Decision 1419/1999/EC*).

*Co decision procedure  
Second reading*

## Culture

### UNESCO negotiations on cultural diversity

On 16 November, Education and Culture ministers authorised the Commission to represent the EC and its Member States in negotiations on the UNESCO convention on cultural diversity. The starting point for these negotiations was a draft convention on protecting the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions presented in July; following a first intergovernmental meeting held in September, Member States were requested to submit written recommendations to the UNESCO Secretariat before 15 November. A second intergovernmental negotiating session is envisaged in February 2005.

The EU initial set of comments on the draft convention underlines:

§ the Convention shall in no way weaken

- human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- § the recognition of the specific and dual (cultural and economic) nature of cultural goods and services;
- § the recognition of the role of public policies in safeguarding and promoting cultural diversity and the sovereign right of States and other relevant public authorities in this respect;
- § the importance of international cooperation to face cultural vulnerabilities, in particular vis-à-vis developing countries;
- § The need for adequate communication with other international bodies to allow fully effective implementation while preserving legal certainty as regards international obligations.

### Culture 2007 programme

On 16 November, Culture ministers held a debate on the action programme in the field of culture (2007-2013), which focused on how to ensure participation of smaller projects and/or operators and whether specific cultural sectors should be mentioned in the programme.

Most delegations welcomed that no specific sectors were mentioned; a few delegations however considered that the protection of cultural heritage should be mentioned among the objectives. Many delegations stressed

that the programme should be open to small cultural operators; some were favourable to reducing the minimum number of operators or the financial thresholds to ensure that small projects with a lesser budget would have access to the programme. The overriding criterion was quality of projects rather than size.

The action programme is awaiting Parliament's opinion under co decision.

### European Economic and Social Affairs Committee NGO Liaison Group

The inaugural meeting of the Liaison Group between the EESC and European civil society networks was held on 29 September. The European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH) was the only representative of cultural interests at the meeting, which aimed at exploring how the group will work

and what issues will be covered. Hot topics were the role of NGOs in the new Constitution and how European NGOs are funded and supported by the EU. BEUC, CONCORD, the Education and Civil Society Platform and the Youth European Forum also participated.

### Role of education and its cultural aspects

Education ministers adopted on 15 November a report entitled 'Education and citizenship: the broader role of education and its cultural aspects', in response to a request from the spring 2003 European Council.

The report, which aims at strengthening citizenship and social integration through education as an extra effort in reaching the Lisbon strategy goals, should be submitted to the December European Council.

*Co decision procedure  
First reading*

<http://www.es.int/>  
<http://www.efah.org/>



## Education

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### EU Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

Justice and Home Affairs ministers adopted on 25 October a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) no 337/75 (*OJ L 39 of 13 February 1975, p. 1*) as last amended by Regulation (EC) no 1655/2003 (*OJ L 245 of 29 September 2003, p. 41*), rationalising the structure and functioning of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), namely of its Management Board and of the Bureau, to

increase its effectiveness, in particular in the context of the EU's enlargement.

CEDEFOP provides policy makers, researchers and practitioners with information on developments in vocational education and training (VET) and further assists the Commission in encouraging, at Community level, the promotion and development of VET.

### European cooperation in vocational education and training

Education ministers adopted conclusions on European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET) on 15 November. At national level, priority should be given to: the use of common instruments to support the development of VET systems regarding e.g. Euro pass, quality assurance, identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning; improve, where appropriate, the training incentive effects of tax and benefit systems; encourage the use of the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); further develop the implementation of open learning approaches; increase relevance and quality of VET through the systematic involvement of all relevant partners at national, regional and local level. At European level, priority should be given

to: the development of an open and flexible European qualifications framework, based mainly on competencies and learning outcomes; the development and implementation of a European Credit Transfer System for VET (ECVET); the assessment of specific learning needs and the improvement of the scope, precision and reliability of VET statistics.

The Council invited Member States and the Commission to prepare proposals for a European Qualifications Framework and a ECVET; to develop closer cooperation, both at national and European level, with Higher Education, European economic, employment, sustainable development and Social Inclusion policies and between research, practice and policy.

### Mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy

On 15 November, Education ministers held a debate on the mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy in March 2005 (Kok Report), concerning the education and training aspects, specially focusing on: national strategies for lifelong learning; 'Excellence' as an objective for all levels of education; and the contribution of education and training to the Lisbon goals, including the realisation of the "knowledge society".

The Council further requested that the Council (Education) contribute to the

preparations of the mid-term review process. Ministers of Education will further elaborate this issue at a ministerial conference in Maastricht on 15 December.

With regard to the content of new educational curricula, progress has been made on e.g. second modern foreign language; quality of mobility; and the possibilities of transferring educational funding within the EU. The European Council should reach an agreement regarding funding in mid 2005.

## Education

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### Higher Education Institutions receive the ECTS Label

On 18 and 19 November, the European Commission held a European Seminar for 2000 Bologna promoters selected by their National Authorities to act as advisers to their colleagues in the implementation of the reforms carried out in the 40 countries participating in the **Bologna process**.

The seminar aimed at raising awareness and knowledge on key aspects of the Bologna process e.g. quality assurance, accreditation, the three cycle system and recognition and at giving to Bologna Promoters the opportunity to network at European level.

Participants discussed a strategy for raising awareness on the reforms. In conjunction with this meeting, the Commission awarded the first ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) Label to eleven institutions which have completed the introduction of ECTS correctly in all degree programmes (see <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects/ectslabel.pdf>). They will receive funding to extend the use of ECTS to Lifelong Learning (ECTS for LLL Grant). Visit <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/>.

## EU Research and Development

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### Admitting third-country nationals for purposes of scientific research

Justice and Home affairs ministers reached on 19 November a general approach on the Directive on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for purposes of scientific research, which lays down the conditions for the admission of third-country researchers to the Member States for more than three months for the purposes of carrying out a research project under a hosting agreement with a research organisation.

According to the draft text, a researcher holding a residence permit shall be entitled to equal treatment with nationals as regards: recognition of diplomas, certificates and other professional qualifications in accordance with the relevant national

procedures; working conditions (pay and dismissal); branches of social security (Regulation 1408/71/EEC); tax benefits; access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public. A third-country national who has been admitted as a researcher will also be allowed to carry out part of his/her research in another Member State.

The EU will need 700, 000 additional researchers by 2010 if it is to devote 3% of the Member States' GDP to RTD by the end of the decade. It is unlikely that it will be able to produce this number of researchers itself, thus it will be necessary to take measures to attract researchers from outside the Union.

### Classification of FP6 Instruments

The Sixth Framework Programme for RTD (FP6) includes two new instruments - **integrated projects** and **networks of excellence** - to be used as priority means of carrying out activities in the priority thematic areas with the objective of integrating European research. The instruments have been classified into three different groups on the basis of their purpose:

- Integrated Projects (IPs) and Specific

Targeted Research Projects (STREPs);

- Networks of Excellence (NoEs);
- Coordination Actions (CAs) and Specific Support Actions (SSAs). See [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/pdf/classification\\_fp6\\_instruments.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/pdf/classification_fp6_instruments.pdf). For a detailed description of instruments, visit [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/pdf/classification\\_fp6\\_instruments\\_annex.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/pdf/classification_fp6_instruments_annex.pdf).

### 2004 EU Marie Curie Awards announced

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/mariecurieactions/index.htm\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/mariecurieactions/index.htm_en.html)

The European Commission announced on 7 November in Warsaw the winners of the 2004 Marie Curie Awards, with grants of up to € 50,000 going to five outstanding European researchers. The Awards are part of a four-year € 1.56 billion programme intended to support the training and mobility of researchers in Europe, coming from all over the world. 'Marie Curie' actions foster the training, mobility and career

development of researchers. Fellowships are available in any scientific discipline.

The Marie Curie Awards are given in recognition of the excellence achieved by researchers who have benefited from EU support schemes and to boost their careers by contributing to their international exposure. This year's graduates include two Germans, two Italians and an Israeli.

### Descartes Prize

<http://www.cordis.lu/science-society/descartes/home.html>

The Descartes Prize, a Commission-hosted science competition, is gearing up for its fifth edition to be held in December in Prague. Eight projects have been selected as this year's examples of excellent research collaboration.

The competition identifies and showcases examples of top research today and raises awareness of the benefits of working together to achieve ambitious scientific goals at the European level. This year, a new prize has been added to stimulate interest in the scientific communication aspect and to improve public understanding of scientific research.

Two winners will share the € 1 million prize. Meanwhile, 19 finalists in the scientific communication prize have been selected from almost 50 submissions in seven categories. These will vie for five grand prizes worth a total of € 250 000 being awarded.

For further information:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/scientific-awareness/awards\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/scientific-awareness/awards_en.html)

## Information Society

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### A new EU strategy for Information Society beyond 2005

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/europe/2005/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/2005/index_en.htm)

On 19 November, the Commission adopted a communication as a starting point of a reflection process that will lead to the adoption of a new strategy during 2005. The communication sets out the challenges to be addressed and highlights the need to step up research and investment in information and communication technologies (ICT), and to promote their take-up throughout the economy. ICT should be more closely

tailored to citizens' needs and expectations. The challenges include social inclusion and citizenship, content and services, public services, skills and work, interoperability of ICT networks and applications, trust and dependability and ICT for business processes.

The communication (COM (2004)0757) can be found at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/>.

### The Information Society Technologies event

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

This year's Information Society Technologies (IST) event was held in The Hague from 15 to 17 November in cooperation with the Dutch Presidency. The overall themes of the conference were 'people' and 'economy'. It included an exhibition of research results and networking facilities for the participants.

Besides the plenary sessions, over 30 workshops featured top-level speakers from industry, academia and civil society, while the exhibition showed around 130 state-of-the-art research projects involving many research labs and SMEs from around Europe.

## Information Society

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### Post-eEurope agenda, Member States and eEurope Advisory Group exchange of views

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/europe/2005/all\\_about/advisory\\_group/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/2005/all_about/advisory_group/index_en.htm)

The eEurope Advisory Group met on 21 and 22 of October to report on work being done within the expert section and to discuss with Member States the main issues raised in the preparation of the post-eEurope Agenda. This work contributed to the Commission communication on the challenges for the European Information Society beyond 2005 (*COM (2004)0757*), adopted on 19 November.

Experts also adopted an interim report on e-Inclusion (the final to be delivered next March) discussed the final report of the High

Level Group on Digital Rights Management (HLG DRM). Member States met separately to discuss the main events and issues addressed by DG Information Society and new policy issues e.g. mobile payment.

The MODINIS programme allowed the Commission to establish the eEurope Advisory Group. See the Work programme 2004 at

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/europe/2005/doc/all\\_about/modinis\\_work\\_prog\\_adopted.doc](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/europe/2005/doc/all_about/modinis_work_prog_adopted.doc).

### e-Domec, Electronic Archiving and Document Management

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/edoc\\_management/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/edoc_management/index_en.htm)

e-Domec (Electronic Archiving and Document Management in the European Commission) is the new document management policy of the European Commission. Part of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (*Decision 2002/47/EC, ECSC, EURATOM of 23 January 2002*), it falls within the framework of the administrative reform and e-Commission. Within its framework, the Commission also

adopted Decision 2004/563/EC, EURATOM (7 July 2004) - Commission's provisions on electronic and digitised documents, amending its Rules of Procedure, which aims at determining the conditions of validity of electronic and digitised documents for the European Commission's purposes as well as ensuring their authenticity, integrity and legibility.

### ICT and Social Capital in the Knowledge Society

<http://www.jrc.es/home/publications/publication.dfm?pub=1174>

This report examines the relationship between ICT and social capital against the backdrop of the Lisbon objectives. The first section provides an overview of the relationship between social capital and ICT; the second discusses some issues that emerge when examining the relationship

between social capital and ICT e.g. empowerment and balkanisation theses; the third emphasises the need to focus on the opportunities afforded by ICT use; section five presents key messages to policy-makers and section six looks at some research questions which emanate from the report.

### Open document formats, TAC recommendations from IT industry players

On 25 May 2004, eGovernment policy-makers from the EU-25 endorsed a set of recommendations promoting the use of open document formats by the public sector (<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/2592/5588>), which encourage major players in the field of document processing to involve official standard organisations in their work.

IBM, Microsoft and Sun responded

positively to the Telematics between Administrations Committee (TAC) Recommendations (<http://europa.eu.int/ida/en/document/3439#ibm>). The White Paper from the Open Forum Europe (*November 2004*) is the result of a discussion held in early September (<http://europa.eu.int/ida/servlets/Doc?id=18033>). Open Document Formats have been identified as a key area of interoperability.

## Internal Market

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### Public hearing on service industries and the internal market

On 11 November, Parliament held a hearing on proposals for services in the internal market unveiled in January. The draft directive on services, part of the "Lisbon strategy", is intended to give a legal framework to facilitate the free movement of services and the right for service providers to set up in different Member States, while also providing legal certainty for providers and customers.

Services cannot all be treated the same. For some services, legislation already exists or is in the pipeline, e.g. competitiveness, posting of workers; each country has its own traditions and political sensitivities. The directive however is not proposing to place services in different categories but adopting a single, standard approach by means of exemptions and derogations.

Under the spotlight were legal and economic aspects of the proposals which aim at lifting all barriers in the provision of services within the EU, as well as the effects on labour market and society. Paul Beaumont, Professor of international private law, added that the **Rome Convention** would be a better instrument for dealing with

contractual relations governing the provision of services. As for non-contractual relations, these should not be covered by the directive since the **Rome Convention II** gives them a far clearer and more complete legal framework than the Commission's draft directive.

Mr Drijber, a Dutch legal expert, argued that it would be difficult to drop the "**country of origin**" principle, but this principle was not clearly defined in the directive. By contrast, Arjan Lejour, Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, argued that it could help to overcome the barriers thrown up by national laws that varied enormously and were impossible to harmonise.

Marc Guillaume, member of the French Conseil d'Etat, suggested that the **regulated legal professions** should be excluded from the directive's scope, while Jacques Briquemont, of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), wanted the **audiovisual industries** to be excluded so as to safeguard cultural diversity and pluralism. Several speakers also stressed the need for it to be made clear that **workers posted to another country** were not covered by the directive.

## Social Policy

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### Strong demand for more EU action to fight against discrimination

The Green Paper consultation on 'Equality and non-discrimination in the EU' received more than 1,500 contributions - over 1,000 were from individuals, the rest coming from organisations or institutions. 88% of respondents said that the EU should step up its efforts to combat discrimination following enlargement.

One of the Commission's first steps will be to issue a communication on anti-discrimination before the end of 2005, which will set out the agenda to follow up e.g. how to involve all of the key stakeholders (national, regional and local authorities, civil society organisations, social partners, specialised equality bodies). The

Commission will also launch a feasibility study in early 2005 to examine possible initiatives to complement the EU legal framework for tackling discrimination.

Two EU Directives approved in 2000 already ban discrimination. However, opinions are divided as to whether these new rules have yet had a tangible impact. A similar split in opinion occurred on whether existing legislation provides sufficient cover.

For detailed figures on responses to the Green Paper, see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/greenpaper\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/greenpaper_en.htm).

## Telecommunications

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### eTEN programme launches Call for independent experts

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

The eTEN Unit published on 20 November a call for independent experts for 2005-2006 to create a new **Experts Database**. People registered are prospective candidates to assist the Commission in evaluating eTEN proposals received and in reviewing individual ongoing eTEN projects. The renewal aims at updating the database; all individuals in the current database will be informed of the change and invited to transfer to the new database if they so wish. Experts hired by the Commission after 31 December 2004 must have registered

themselves in the new database. The call will remain open until **31 December 2006** (ending date of the current eTEN programme); the database will remain valid until 30 June 2009 to fulfil the need for independent reviewers for ongoing eTEN projects.

See the call for independent experts at [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/eten/calls/cfe2005/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/eten/calls/cfe2005/index_en.htm) or <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex> (*OJ C 283 of 20 November 2004*).

## Trade Policy

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### Reduced VAT rates

At the request of the French delegation, the Council examined the issue of reduced VAT rates as regards **labour-intensive services and restaurant services**.

The Council agreed to re-examine the dossier at its meeting on 7 December, in the light of a working document the Commission intends to present shortly. The Commission's proposal is unacceptable to

many delegations, either because it puts into question zero rates and parking rates, or because it is too generous as regards the scope of application of reduced VAT rates to the detriment of revenue intake, or because it does not provide the possibility to apply reduced VAT rates to specific supplies e.g. CDs, buildings, environment-friendly equipment and labour-intensive services.

### Parliaments, the essential link between citizens and the WTO

The third session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO was held from 24 to 26 November to discuss trade in services from a development perspective. It focused on the issue of greater commitments from the developed countries with respect to the services sectors and modes of supply of specific interest to developing countries. Some Parliament political groups had grave

misgivings about the inclusion of public services in the trade negotiations' agenda. The session concluded with the adoption of a declaration calling upon the respective governments to include MEPs in their official delegations at the sixth WTO Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005. The full text of the declaration is available from the Parliament Press Service.

## Youth Policy

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### EU youth policy to focus on common European values

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

During the Education, Youth and Culture Council on 15 November, ministers for youth adopted two resolutions on common objectives to finalise the cycle of defining the objectives of the White Paper on Youth: first one on voluntary activities and the second on better knowledge of youth.

In addition, the Council adopted conclusions on the evaluation of the current Youth Programme and had a fruitful debate of the Commission's Communication on "Youth in Action" 2007-2013, which proposes a programme to promote European citizenship.

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*Co decision procedure  
First reading*

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

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## Information sources used include

Bulletin Quotidien Europe  
Council Press Office Newsroom, <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1>  
European Parliament Press Service [http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/press/index_en.htm)  
RAPID - Press and Communication Service of the European Commission,  
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/welcome.htm>  
New version of EUR-Lex as of 1 November 2004  
The new site incorporates the CELEX service and provides free and easy access in 20 languages to the largest documentary database on EU law, <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/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/lex/>.  
Please note that the C E edition of the Official Journal, which is only available online, now publishes the explanatory statement for all Commission proposals.

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

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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.