

# URO - info

The bulletin of enterprise policy

Euro Info Centre:  
a new impetus

Europe even closer  
to the SMEs



European Commission



# S U M M A R Y

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**EURO-info** is a concise information bulletin for SMEs and the craft sector. It is sent to those who put in a written request. EURO-info is published 10 times a year.

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 Paola PICCAROLO - European Commission - Directorate General XXIII  
 "Enterprise Policy, Distributive Trades, Tourism and Co-operatives"



## Euro Info Centre: a new impetus



In order to follow through with its ongoing concern to increase the quantitative and qualitative performance of the Euro Info Centre network and so provide a close and effective aid to European SMEs, DG XXIII launched a triple invitation for tenders in December 1997.

The result of the selection of the dossiers, carried out in collaboration with the Member States, offers a stronger basis and a new scope to the Euro Info Centre network, which will allow it to expand its objectives and to give the best possible assistance to one of the priorities of community policy: the small and medium-sized enterprises, a source of employment and growth.

There are now 233 Euro Info Centres. They have a balanced geographic spread and their selection takes into account an objective of ever increasing quality and effectiveness.

Responding to demanding criteria, the Euro Info Centres will pursue their mission to inform, advise and give assistance to European SMEs.

Described by the third multiannual programme for the SMEs of the European Union (Com (96) 98 final) as "the front desk" of access to community information (first stop shops), the Euro Info Centres are committed to provide simple, concrete and effective help, well adapted to the circumstances of each enterprise.

Furthermore, the third multiannual programme explicitly encourages partnerships with organisations which are close to SMEs and which are prime movers in the national or transregional networks in direct contact with the enterprises.

This type of partnership has been contractually set up with 17 organisations, which are to be designated "network leaders". This will lead to a significant redistribution of community information to enterprises, through the intermediary of the organisations selected. This will ensure an appreciable increase in the number of enterprises contacted.

DG XXIII has decided to extend its network to include national or European organisations that represent SMEs. These organisations are not necessarily in direct contact with the enterprises, but are nevertheless partners of quality which cannot be ignored.

Discussions will be held with each organisation destined to become an "associate member", in order to establish a relationship which will focus attention on regular, in depth exchanges of information and on general or sectorial expertise.

The Euro Info Centres have the vocation to put Europe "within arms reach" of enterprises. The improvement and the extension of the network will undoubtedly help to bring Europe closer to enterprises, so that they can become more dynamic and improve their performance.

Ranieri Bombassei



## "EIC, network leaders and associated members, country by country

### Geographic spread of the EIC network

Country	EIC/Network leader	Associated Member
Belgium	12	0
Danmark	8	0
Germany	31	3
Greece	14	3
Spain	27	6
France	33	9
Ireland	6	1
Italy	31	5
Luxembourg	2	0
The Netherlands	6	3
Austria	7	1
Portugal	10	3
Finland	7	1
Sweden	9	0
United Kingdom	24	1
Iceland	1	0
Norway	5	0
European Union		8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>44</b>
	216 EIC e	
	17 Network leader	
		277 Members

### The new members

#### Austria

- Associate member 1:*
- Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH (Eisenstadt)

#### Belgium

- EIC:*
- CCI du Luxembourg Belge (Libramont)

#### Germany

- EIC:*
- Industrie und Handelskammer für Schwaben (Augsburg)
- Industrie und Handelskammer Südwestsachsen (Chemnitz)
- BfU (Kassel)
- Associate member 1:*
- KfW (Frankfurt am Main)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen (Köln)

#### Spain

- EIC:*
- COEPA (Alicante)
- SODERCAN (Santander)
- EIC Network leader:*
- CEOE (Madrid)
- Consejo Superior de Camaras de Comercio, de Industria y Navegacion de Espana (Madrid)
- Associate member 1:*
- Officio y Arte (La Coruna)
- Federacion Espagnola de Organizaciones Empresariales de la Industria del Mueble (FEOEIM) - (Madrid)
- Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Graduados Scoailes (Madrid)
- Confederacion Empresarial de Sociedades Anonimas Laborales (CONFESAL) - (Madrid)
- Confederacion Espanola de Asociaciones de Jovenes Empresarios (CEAJE) - (Madrid)
- Confederacion Empresarial Espanola de la Economia Social (CEPES) - (Madrid)

#### Finland

- EIC:*
- Käsij-ja Taideteollisuusliitto (Helsinki)

#### France

- EIC:*
- CCI de Guyane-Cayenne
- CCI de Nice
- CRCI de Bretagne
- CCI d' Ajaccio et de Corse du Sud (Ajaccio)
- Agence Régionale d'Exportation (AREX) - (Amiens)
- GREX, Centre de Commerce International de la CCI de Grenoble (Grenoble)
- EIC Network leader :*
- Conseil National du Patronat Français (CNPF) - (Paris)
- Assemblée des Chambres Françaises de Commerce et d'Industrie (ACFCI) - (Paris)
- Assemblée Permanente des Chambres des Métiers (ACPM) - (Paris)
- Associate member 1:*
- Forum Francophone des Affaires (Alfortville)
- Délégation des Barreaux de France (Bruxelles)
- Union Interentreprises Textile Lyon et Région (UNITEX) - (Lyon)
- Ministère de l'Industrie (Paris)
- Cobaty International (Paris)
- Comité de Liaison des Comités de Bassin d'Emploi (Paris)
- Chambre Syndicale des Banques Populaires (Paris)
- Union Professionnelle Artisanale (UPA) - (Paris)
- CFME-ACTIM (Paris)

#### Greece

- EIC:*
- Préfecture de Corfu (Corfu)
- Regional Development Agency of Macedonia (ANKO) - (Kozani)
- Chamber of Arcadia (Tripolis)
- Associate member 1:*
- Athens Chamber of SMI's (Athènes)
- Hellenic Foreign Trade Board (Helioupolis)
- Hellenic Organization of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and Handicraft (Eommex) - (Patras)

#### Ireland

- Associate member 1:*
- Business Service Unit of Athlone Regional Technical College (Athlone)

#### Italy

- EIC:*
- CCIAA di Bolzano (Bolzano)
- CCIAA di Cagliari di Sassari (Cagliari/Sassari)
- Unione Regionale delle Camere di Commercio del Molise (Campobasso)
- Provincia Regionale di Catania (Catania)
- BIC Calabria (Cosenza)
- Centro Commercio Estero/CCIAA Potenza (Matera)
- Euro Bic Valle d'Aosta (Saint Christophe)
- Unione Regionale delle Camere di Commercio d'Abruzzo (Teramo)
- Associate member 1:*
- Comitato Impresa Donna (Bologna)
- Confcooperative Sardegna (Cagliari)
- INFORMEST (Gorizia)
- Confagricoltura (Roma)
- Istituto per la Promozione Industriale (IPI) - (Roma)

#### The Netherlands

- Associate member 1:*
- Koninklijke Vereniging MKB Nederland (Delft)

#### Portugal

- EIC:*
- Associação Industrial do Minho (Braga)
- Associação Comercial e Industrial do Funchal (ACIF) - (Funchal)
- Associate member 1:*
- Instituto Antonio Sergio do Sector Cooperativo (INSCOOP) - (Lisboa)
- SILICON (Lisboa)
- Associação Nacional de Jovens Empresarios (ANJE) - (Porto, Lisboa)

#### United Kingdom

- EIC:*
- Essex Country Council (Chelmsford)

- The University of Hull (Hull)
- Business Link Hertfordshire (Saint Albans)
- Business Link Staffordshire (Stafford)
- ☐ *Associate member*<sup>1</sup>:
- The Forum of Private Business (Knutsford)

#### European organisations

- ☐ *Associate member*<sup>1</sup>:
- European Construction Industry Federation (ECIF/FIEC) - (Brussels)
- Union européenne de l'Artisanat et des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (UEAPME) - (Bruxelles)
- EUROCHAMBRES (Brussels)
- European Federation of Cleaning Industries (EFCI/FENI) - (Brussels)
- International Confederation of Printing and Allied Industries (INTERGRAF) - (Brussels)
- European Business and Innovation Centre (EBN) - (Brussels)
- European Apparel and Textile Organisation (EURATEX) - (Brussels)

## Selection of the EICs: demanding criteria

Candidates for EIC status have been selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- location in regions not already covered by the network.
- experience in giving assistance and advice to enterprises.
- the number of enterprises in the region or sector concerned liable to benefit from the services of the EICs.
- knowledge of languages
- knowledge concerning European integration
- data processing skills of personnel appointed to work in an EIC.
- availability of premises, computers and communication equipment.
- the modes of cooperation with other official organisations and with the existing regional or national economic information networks.

## The EIC "network leaders": role and selection criteria

The EIC "Network leaders" are intermediary organisations of the SMEs, heading up a national or transregional network and possessing clearly identified contact units.

The candidates selected have demonstrated their ability to:

- coordinate a national or transregional network composed of contact units in direct contact with enterprises.
- make available to their contact units the requisite means for smooth running (information, training, monitoring).
- ensure global quality control on all the activities of their contact units.

## Associate members of the EICs: role and selection criteria

The associate members are the European or national organisations which represent the SMEs (specialised by sector or by category, such as those operating in the craft sector, the retail sector or the social economy). Their specialisation and expertise facilitate an improvement in, and an expansion of, the services of information and support offered by the network to the enterprises.

The selection of candidates for the status of Associated Member has been carried out in liaison with Member States. This status has been made available to organisations which:

- are European, national, horizontal or sectorial
- have a network which is representative both of their sphere of activity and on a geographic basis (national or European).
- bring added value to the network by the availability of tools and specific services.

The selection also made sure:

- that there was adequate geographical coverage of the European Union, taking into account the density of SMEs in the areas concerned and the regional and/or local particularities of each Member State.
- that there was a diversity of status and type among the organisations selected.

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<sup>1</sup> Negotiations will be held during June with each of the organisations designated as associate members, in order to conclude a partnership agreement.



## The news

### The future of commerce faced with the challenges of the euro, the enlargement of the Community and electronic commerce



Commerce and Distribution Committee (CDC)<sup>1</sup> held its annual conference on 23 April 1998 in Brussels in the presence of leaders of European institutions, among whom was Commissioner Papoutsis. The objective of the conference: to open a dialogue between those politically responsible at a European level and sector professionals on the follow up of the Green Paper<sup>2</sup> of the European Commission on commerce and future trade policy .

To start the discussion, Commissioner Papoutsis presented the broad outlines of the future policy of the Commission with regard to commerce. In their contributions, the sector professionals drew the attention of the politicians in charge to a number of points of uncertainty which could significantly influence the future of commerce.

In fact, the rapid evolution of the environment, be it political, economic or technological, provides commerce with serious challenges.

- the introduction of the euro, which is currently the most important challenge for commerce. Initiatives such as simulations and the production of video cassettes are currently being carried out in Member States of the Union in order to facilitate the introduction of the euro.
- the enlargement of the European Union, which is on the horizon. The repercussions on commerce of this major event must be studied.
- the rapid development of electronic commerce, which could offer significant potential to improve competitiveness, in partic-

ular in the context of cooperation between small and medium-sized commercial enterprises.

The participants in the conference emphasised the necessity for enterprises in the commerce sector, small ones in particular, to adapt themselves to these developments, particularly because, by adapting, commerce could create opportunities for growth.

However, in order to enable the sector to take up these challenges, it is essential to:

- develop training in all areas, both in specific subjects such as the euro and electronic commerce, but also in general subjects such as the training of proprietors of small businesses.
- improve the understanding of the world of commerce within European institutions and among consumers.

Among other points raised should be noted:

- the confirmation of the social role played by commerce and the necessity to develop social dialogue on a sector by sector base.
- the actions to support local stores in remote and disadvantaged areas should include the islands; problems encountered by local stores in towns should also be studied.
- a solution must be found concerning late payments and problems with regard to the transfer of enterprises.
- greater consideration should be given to the possibilities for interaction between commerce and tourism and the interface between commerce and the environment.

Commissioner Papoutsis gave some basic replies to questions and uncertainties voiced by the specialists from the commerce sector. With regard to the matter under discussion, he assured all the participants that the Commission was fully aware of the probable repercussions of economic and monetary union on commerce and of the adoption of electronic commerce by enterprises in the sector.

Furthermore, he confirmed that the overall objective of the Commission's future policy on commerce would be the improvement of competitiveness by the enterprises in the sector.

He also proceeded to clarify the roles of the various participants in the commerce sector. In doing so, he underlined the fact that the role of the Community was not to support the commerce sector financially and that the allocation of structural funds depended on Member States and their willingness whether or not to include commerce in their programmes. He also stressed the leading role of commerce in social dialogue. Finally, he emphasized the importance of the role that the members of the CDC could play in the promotion of the sector by informing the public and by informing the media of the challenges that had to be faced.

This annual conference of the CDC was perfectly timed, at the moment when the services of the Commission were preparing a

<sup>1</sup> Commerce and Distribution Committee: see Euro-Info n° 107, p.6.

<sup>2</sup> Green Paper: Green Papers are documents of analysis and reflection aimed at initiating discussion prior to taking a decision. Green Paper on commerce: COM (96) 530 final 20/11/1996.

White paper<sup>3</sup> on commerce for the end of 1998. The contributions of the participants could therefore be taken into account.

<sup>3</sup> White Paper: in community terminology, White Papers contain strategic proposals set out by the administrative services whose task is the development and the implementation of community policy.

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## Sweden: associations and the public sector debate

**"The relationship between the associations and the public sector". This was the theme of the conference which was held in Stockholm on 5 May 1998, on the initiative of a group of Swedish associations and with the support of the European Commission (DG XXIII). This event, which took place at a national level, made possible the opening of a dialogue between the Swedish CMAF (Cooperatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations) and the governmental public authorities, both regional and local. This meeting came as a follow-up of the Commission's Communication on "The promotion of the role of associations and foundations in Europe" (COM 97/241 final).**

By way of introduction, the Swedish Minister in charge of associations and foundations indicated that, for two principal reasons, he observed a "renaissance for the social economy": firstly, because the sector will play an increasing role in the big changes of the 21st century; secondly, because the sector reflects the opinion of citizens faced with the new needs of society: need to communicate, questions concerning globalisation, new technology and the position of the media. According to him, the associations find themselves confronted with new tasks, which compel them to make an in depth analysis of needs (notably taking into account new technology) and to adopt new working methods. Moreover, a ministerial committee had been created within the Swedish government to "reflect" on the social economy.

Among the topics discussed during the panel discussions, should be noted: a discussion on the definition and the role of the social economy in a democracy; the weight of, and the transformation within, the "popular movement", the Swedish democratic movement which was founded in the 19th century by the cooperatives and unions and which continues to be one of the pillars of Swedish society. It should be noted that during this discussion, a member of the Committee for the Regions\* declared that he wanted the Council to come to a conclusion concerning the European status of cooperatives, mutual societies and associations. Another topic discussed was the financing of the social economy and its public support. This panel discussion made it possible to highlight the problems encountered by the associations, foundations and small entities to finance and manage themselves, take part in European programmes, etc. The principal solution envisaged: the necessity to group together and to restructure.

At the end of the debates, the conference could be credited with several positive results. In the first place, it will enable a relaunch of the debate on the social economy in Sweden:

- it will give new impetus to the discussions with the public sector (government and regional and local authorities);
- it will permit the setting up of a social economy platform in Sweden, which will group together and coordinate the CMAF, which will thus become a privileged partner of the government and the European Commission.

In the second place, it is probable that Sweden will organise the 7th Conference on the Social Economy in 2001, to coincide with its presidency of the European Union.

\* The Committee for the Regions:

- is a consultative entity set up in 1991 by the European Union (EU) treaty.
- is composed of 222 representatives of regional and local administrations of the EU.
- its mission: to represent the interests of regional and local administrations of the EU.

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## Associations and foundations, the need and the means for sound management

**How to train the associations and foundations in management ? Two days of debate were organised in Lisbon (Portugal) on 8 and 9 May 1998 on the initiative of the "Portuguese Misericordias Union" organisation, in conjunction with the European Commission (DG XXIII). This meeting enabled a certain number of conclusions-recommendations of an operational nature to be put forward. To be continued...**

The above conference, which was organised as a follow up to the Communication of the Commission on "The promotion of the role of the associations and foundations in Europe" (COM 97/241 final), brought together around a hundred officials and executives of the associations and foundations in Portugal. It also attracted representatives of the social economy at a European level.

Various themes were discussed during the conference: the distinctive features of the associations and foundations as well as the principles and values which form the basis of their identity - freedom (independence and autonomy), responsibility (participative management, collective will), solidarity (non-profit seeking, since associations and foundations cannot accumulate profits). Several aspects of training and management were debated from a theoretical and practical point of view. On the theoretical side, the discussion concerned "the difference between management in the public, private and social sectors", "citizenship, culture and the management of social institutions", the "community Foundations", "life-long training", "personnel management in the context of voluntary organisations". On the practical side, a participant explained the difficulties of managing an Association for Social Action in France. Another raised the question of the development of management training in Spain and its practical application.

The working session ended by a series of conclusions-recommendations aimed at the public authorities and the associations and foundations.

Conclusions and recommendations aimed at the public authorities:

- the initiative of the European Commission in favour of the associations and foundations in Europe (COM 97/241 final) has been confirmed by vote.

This could be reinforced by:

- the promotion of distance-training schemes at a European level.
- the fostering of inter-institutional initiatives for management training.

- training sessions in schools on the values and principles required by the sector.

The associations and foundations themselves recognised the need to:

- support the initiatives of DG XXIII and DG XXII (Education, Training, Youth) and the new Committee for the CMAF, in order to promote the role of the associations and foundations and the values they represent.
- promote the distinctive features of the sector.
- promote a specific management culture which can reconcile economic rigour and social innovation, thus reinforcing the sector.
- develop a system of scholarships organised by the entrepreneurial sector.
- organise on-the-job training on a wide scale, with the possibility of employment, to avoid purely theoretical training.

\* Portuguese Misericordias Union: Partner and prime mover of the National Cooperation Pact for Social Solidarity, signed by the Portuguese government and the regional and local authorities on 19 December 1996.

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## Adoption of the programme "Growth and Employment"

Adoption by the Ecofin Council on May 19 of the "Growth and Employment" programme submitted by the Commission. Representing a budget of the order of 420 million ECU spread over three years (1998-2000), this programme is aimed at the development of SMEs in Europe by the elimination of certain constraints which create problems for their financing. In order to favour the growth of SMEs and, in fine, the creation of jobs, three programmes will be put in place.

The two first programmes will be operated by the European Investment Fund (EIF) The first is the "EMT-start-up" desk (European Mechanism for Technology), which provides for the taking of stakes in risk capital companies which invest in young innovative enterprises, or enterprises in the process of being set up; the second is a "guarantee" action, aimed at increasing the volume of



loans which are granted to SMEs by the financial institutions. These two programmes will supplement those of the EIF's own operations which come within the scope of risk capital or loan guarantees.

JEV (Joint European Ventures) is the third aspect of the "Growth and Employment" programme. 80 to 100 million ECU will be allocated to the creation of joint European ventures. A network of banks will make the link between the Commission and SMEs aspiring to an international role. For the joint business project to be eligible for a subsidy of a maximum of 100,000 ECU, it must originate from SMEs situated in at least two of the Member States of the European Union. The network currently has 52 members and its list of members can be consulted on the Commission's Internet site (EUROPA). Decision of the Ecofin Council published in the Official Journal. (L155-29.5.1998)

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## Aid for the craft sector and small enterprises



Following the call for proposals 97/C 117/17 "Assistance for craft and small enterprises", the European Commission has decided to subsidise around twenty programmes. Each project can be financed up to a maximum of 50% of its cost. The total of the subsidies amount to 7 million ECU. This action is part of the third multiannual programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the European Union (1997-2000). Two projects were presented in the April issue of Euro-info; here are two others:

### "SAFE: Entrepreneurs Support and Training Service"

This Franco-Spanish project is directed at young unemployed graduates. Objective: to give them advice and support to help them create their own business. From the practical standpoint this project organises activities in training and business start-up. The training section provides individual advice concerning the creation of a new

business and courses in business management. The practical section: creation of enterprises by the young participants and support for these new enterprises during the delicate start-up phase. The project also envisages activities to promote entrepreneurship. According to the forecasts of the organisers, 5,000 young graduates should take advantage of the training and approximately 75 businesses should be created, meaning that 75 to 150 new jobs will be created.

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### "Eurosources: New Sources for Enterprises"

The Eurosources operation has set itself as objective the creation of a European network of innovative enterprises bringing pressure to bear on the New Employment Pool. Around the Belgian organisers, this operation brings together partner organisations from Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal and at the European level. In an initial phase, the project organisers intend to undertake an action encompassing information, advice and support for young entrepreneurs to prepare them for the development of the New Employment Pool and enable them to create projects of an international scale. In parallel, the project envisages making a local economic forecast of demand, by making use of original forms of promotion and distribution of offers of service. The second phase of the project consists of encouraging the selected entrepreneurs to organise themselves in a network to facilitate the flow of information, the exchange of experience and the consensus on modes of cooperation.

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## DG XXIII: direct contact at Brussels airport.

Telephones, fax, photocopies, personnel, personalised welcome etc. The new airport at Zaventem now has an "Airport Forum - Brussels welcome service" situated at the arrival level. It is intended for the use of businessmen who are leaving Brussels or who are in transit. DG XXIII has an information desk there with telephones connected to its information service in Brussels. Advantage: rapid access to information on the activities and programmes offered by DG XXIII within the scope of its policy of support to enterprise - Euro Info Centre, Europartenariat, Interprise, BC-net, BRE, actions in favour of sub-contracting, coordinated activities in favour of the craft sector, the social economy, commerce and tourism. The "Forum" is open from 6 to 21hrs, seven days a week.

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grated quality management system by successful tourism businesses, and to deliver strategic guidelines.

Among the opening speakers at the forum are: Mr. Hannes Farnleitner, Austria Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Theo Waigel, German Federal Minister of Finance, Mr. Christos Papoutsis, Member of the European Commission responsible for Tourism, Mr. Jean-Pierre Bazin, President of the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament, Mr. Tom Jenkins, President of the Economic and Social Committee and Mr. Francesco Frangialli, Secretary General of the World Tourism Organisation.

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## Agenda

### Forum on integrated quality management in tourism



Mayhofen/Zillertal/Tyrol, Austria, 9-12 July 1998.

Directorate General XXIII of European Commission is organising jointly with the first Austrian Council Presidency a European Tourism Forum devoted to "Integrated Quality Management in Tourism".

The forum will present and discuss the state of research, trends in tourism policy strategies and the development of a positive environment for tourism. It will also examine the practical use of inte-

### Forum "The cooperation of enterprises faced with the challenges of the Euro and electronic commerce"

"Partnership 98", Athens, Greece, 10-11 September

For the record, DG XXIII of the European Commission organises a "Partnership" forum every year, the objective of which is to summarize the current situation and set out the perspectives for the programmes and networks of cooperation between enterprises that are managed by DG XXIII. The following are invited to these forums: the members of the "Business Cooperation Network" (BC-NET) and of the "Bureau de Rapprochement des Entreprises" (BRE), as well as the organisers and participants in events run within the framework of the Europartenariat, Interprise and Sub-contracting programmes.

The 1998 edition of the Partnership forum will deal with the consequences of the introduction of the single currency and electronic



commerce on small and medium-sized enterprises, in the context of cooperation between SMEs.

Two elements give this event a special significance: first, the definitive list of the countries which are to adopt the euro on 1 January 1999 has just been published; second, the increasing use of the Internet and electronic commerce, which is making profound changes to attitudes and ways of doing business.

The forum has two objectives:

- to provide SMEs with information, as complete as possible, on the themes dealt with. In this respect, "Partnership 98" will bring together, as contributors, high level specialists and businessmen.
- to promote an exchange of ideas between the participants and the European Commission (EC) with regard to the programmes and networks of cooperation managed by the EC. Three seminars are scheduled: the first on the BC-NET/BRE networks, the second on the events organised within the scope of the Europartenariat/Interprise programmes, and the third on sub-contracting.

#### INFORMATION

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## Interprise meetings

### • Interprise Aqua-Partners

1-2 October 1998 in Piraeus (Greece)

Europartners Ltd.

Contact: Alexis Caniaris

Tel. + 30 1 92 21 254 Fax. + 30 1 92 21 589

Participating countries: United Kingdom, Norway

Sector of activity: Aquaculture

### • Interprise International Health Care

5-6 October 1998 in Stockholm (Sweden)

Bussines Area Stockholm

Contact: Ylva Hultam

Tel. + 46 8 785 80 65 Fax. + 46 8 651 76 33

Participating countries: Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium

Sector of activity: Health

### • Interprise Medical and Electronics

12-13 October 1998 in Durham (United Kingdom)

Durham County Council

Contact: Frankish

Tel. + 44 0191 383 43 73 Fax. + 44 0191 383 36 57

Participating countries: Finland, Germany, Netherlands

Sector: Medical and electronic equipment

### • Interprise Iberscan 98

22-23 October 1998 in Toledo (Spain)

C.C.P de Toledo

Contact: Javier Diaz Herranz

Tel. + 34 925 21 44 50 Fax. + 34 925 21 39 00

Participating countries: Sweden, Denmark, Norway

Sector: Leather goods

## Just out

- Publication of the "European Index of the main support measures for the creation and guidance of young enterprises". This index is available on diskette in French and English and is on sale at the OPOCE (27 ECU).

FR n° ISBN 92-828-2648-1

EN n° ISBN 92-828-2647-3

- Volumes I and II of the report by the "Simplification of the business environment" Task force, BEST, have just been published. These documents, exist in the eleven languages of the European Union and are available free from:

#### INFORMATION

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Italy		<b>167.78.06.74</b>
Luxembourg		<b>0800.32.77</b>
The Netherlands	<b>00 800</b>	<b>0800.11.22</b>
Austria		<b>0800.20.12.50</b>
Portugal		<b>0505.32.96.30</b>
Finland		<b>0800.11.32.41</b>
Sweden		<b>020.93.10.10</b>
United Kingdom		<b>0800.78.36.553</b>
Iceland	<b>00 800</b>	<b>0800.11.22</b>
Norway	<b>00 800</b>	<b>0800.11.22</b>



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