info 2000

ECHO facts for users

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"New look" for documentation

Visitors to the European Union stand at major exhibitions and recipients of our information packages will have noticed that newly designed documentation for INFO2000 and related awareness material is now being distributed. Documents are available in the 11 official European languages and cover the INFO2000 programme and the MIDAS-NET nodes.

All documentation can be downloaded from the I*M-Europe WWW site (http://www.echo.lu/). It is also included in the INFO2000 Documentation CD-ROM, a new version of which is soon to be released.

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Content as a Subject in the Global Information Networks Declarations
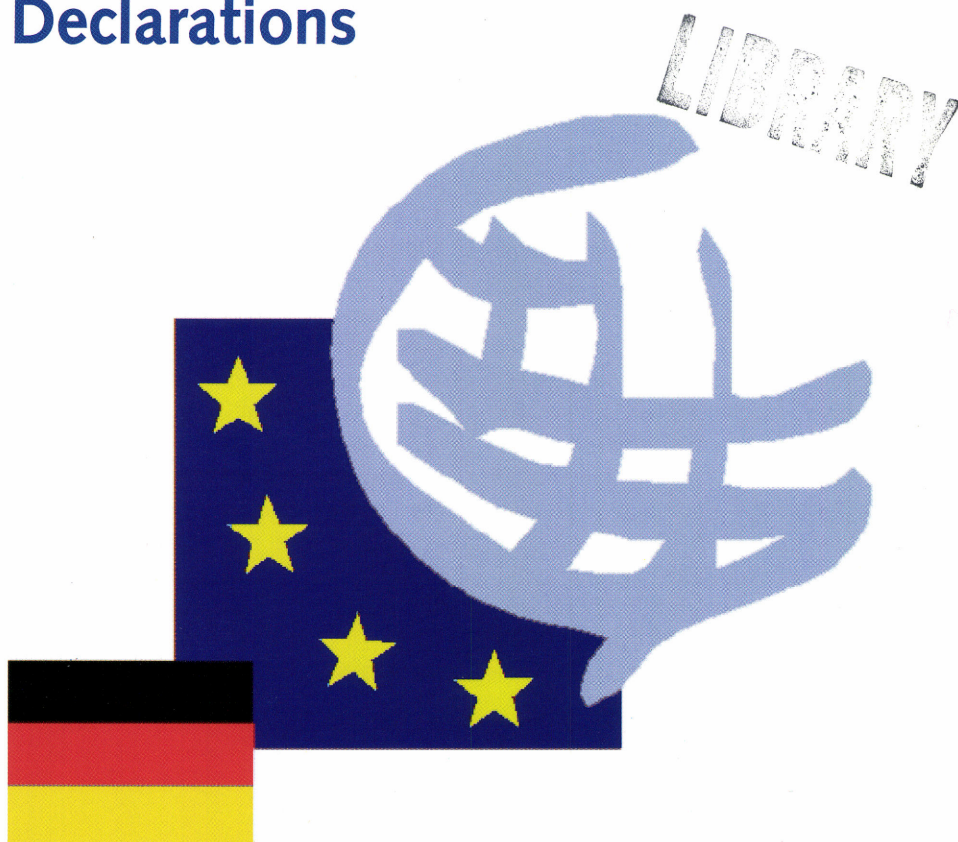
At the Bonn Conference (Global Information Networks) in July 1997, central themes on information society development relating to content, commerce and data protection were addressed which resulted in three declarations ("Ministerial, Users' and Industry Declarations").

Focusing on "Content" the Ministerial Declaration recognised the potential of Global Information Networks (GINs) in the development of new forms of content. It also recognised that provision of high quality European content and services constitutes an economic and industry priority. Content is considered one of Europe's strengths. Cross-fertilisation and innovation on content and service provision between audio-visual,

telecommunications and publishing companies will be promoted. The Users' declaration signalled that true value-added content would result from market demands.

Public sector information content will be made more widely available through new technologies as it is considered a substantial driver of GINs. Efforts will be made to enable teachers to integrate multimedia content into teaching programmes.

Content on these networks can present a threat as well as opportunities. Legislation apportioning responsibility for content to the various actors in an information chain, between creation and use must be defined. The Ministers

consider that, in general, network operators and access providers should not be responsible for content, nor exercise prior control on content which they have no reason to believe is illegal. Both the "Industrial and Users' Declaration" took the position that user anonymity should be preserved. Work will be undertaken to achieve international availability and choice of cryptographic products. Steps will also be taken to remove barriers to the use of digital signatures in law, business and public administration.

In the "Industry Declaration" governments were identified as being responsible for the establishment of appropriate regulatory environments in which businesses operate. High level protection of intellectual property was considered necessary for the creation, storage and distribution of content. Considering convergence the "Industry Declaration" highlighted that since division between telecommunications, broadcasting, publishing and information technology no longer make sense, future regulatory approaches should be based on general principles of law, and not on sector specific legislation. The "Users' Declaration" in the context of citizens' rights and content considered that policy should ensure that existing general law is applicable to new information services.

In excess of 500 international high level representatives agreed the declarations emerging from the Bonn Conference. Actions arising out of the consensus reached should ensure an enhanced Global Information Network environment for all players in the Information Society. The full text of the declarations may be viewed on the Information Market server of the European Commission at:

http://www.echo.lu/bonn/conference. html.

European Action for Multimedia Content - MIDAS-NET

Issue 2/97 of ECHO facts for users welcomed mission statements from MIDAS-NET nodes and their partners in Austria, France and Germany. This issue features contributions from nodes and their partners based in Italy, Spain and Portugual.

ITALIA

I due Nodi italiani della rete MIDAS-NET si propongono di aiutare lo sviluppo della Società dell'Informazione in Italia. Il processo di collegare la tradizione culturale con le trasformazioni socio-economiche legate all'innovazione tecno logica richiede infatti uno sforzo congiunto delle istituzioni, delle imprese, del sistema educativo e formativo e delle parti sociali. La scommessa della rete MIDAS-NET è di trasformare l'informazione multimediale da un'applicazione di 'elite' a una pratica di massa.

L' URL per questo paese è :
http://www.midas-net.it/

Co-ordinator

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Descrizione: Amitié è nata per offrire servizi ai membri dell'omonima associazione università-impresa, creata nell'ambito del Programma COMETT, della Commissione Europea. Amitié organizza attività di formazione nel settore del software e delle tecnologie dell'Informazione, principalmente indirizzare alle Regioni meno favorite dell'Unione Europea.

Partners

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Descrizione: AIE è l'Associazione Italiana degli Editori. Il suo principale obiettivo è rappresentare le organizzazioni coinvolte nel settore dell'editoria e promuovere la diffusione del libro e della cultura in Italia. AIE organizza formazione e attività di informazione per i suoi membri, con un'attenzione speciale alle case editrici di piccole dimensioni.

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Descrizione: L'Associazione Orlando ha l'obiettivo di organizzare attività di formazione, informazione e ricerca per le donne in collaborazione con le Università, istituzioni locali e culturali, organizzazioni private non governative, a livello nazionale e internazionale. Ha sviluppato il primo server italiano Internet rivolto espressamente alle donne.

Azienda agricola F.lli Filippo e Carlo De Blasio di Palizzi
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Descrizione: L'Azienda agricola F.lli Filippo e Carlo De Blasio di Palizzi, in collaborazione con APE (Associazione Provinciale per l'Energia), sta sviluppando una rete telematica pilota per sostenere l'innovazione tecnologica in Calabria e Puglia, con la prospettiva di estenderla, in un prossimo futuro, ad altre regioni del Sud Italia.

CINECA Consorzio interuniversitario per la gestione del centro di calcolo elettronico dell'Italia nord-orientale
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Descrizione: CINECA è il più importante centro italiano di supercalcolo per attività di ricerca, sia pubblica che privata, e uno dei maggiori nel mondo. È un Consorzio che comprende 13 Università italiane (Ancona, Bologna, Catania, Ferrara, Firenze, Modena, Padova, Parma, Siena, Trento, Trieste, Udine, Venezia), e include un rappresentante del Ministero Italiano dell'Università e della Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica.

FAST Federazione delle Associazioni Scientifiche e Tecniche
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Descrizione: FAST è la Federazione delle Associazioni Tecniche e Scientifiche Italiane. Offre assistenza e servizi alle imprese. Negli ultimi anni, FAST ha incrementato la sua attività al fine di diffondere in Italia informazioni sui programmi e progetti della Commissione Europea e trasferire le tecnologie italiane a livello europeo.

G.B. Palumbo & C. Editore S.p.A.
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Tel.: 39 91 588850
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Descrizione: G.B. Palumbo & C. Editore S.p.A. è una casa editrice con sede in Sicilia. È una delle antenne più attive dell'Associazione Italiana degli Editori nel Sud Italia, per l'organizzazione e l'attivazione di servizi comuni.

Co-ordinator

PITAGORA S.p.A.
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Descrizione: PITAGORA S.p.A., società appartenente al Gruppo CERVED, offre una vasta gamma di servizi in campo economico e telematico. Produce e distribuisce banche dati on e off-line e informazioni per piccole e medie imprese, istituti di credito e diversi enti.

Partners

AIB Associazione Italiana Biblioteche
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Descrizione: L'Associazione Italiana Biblioteche è l'unica associazione professionale esistente in Italia nel settore. Conta oltre 3000 soci, fra enti e persone, su tutto il territorio nazionale. È impegnata sul piano politico, legislativo, culturale e scientifico per il raggiungimento di un moderno ed efficiente sistema di servizi bibliotecari. Svolge attività editoriali tradizionali ed elettroniche, organizza eventi divulgativi ed eroga corsi di aggiornamento all'uso delle nuove tecnologie.

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Descrizione: Promozione di piccole e medie imprese; assistenza alle imprese esistenti relativamente a: sviluppo, innovazione, internazionalizzazione, diversificazione della gamma di prodotti e creazione di nuovo lavoro.

CEDCAMERA Camera di Comercio di Milano
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Descrizione: CEDCAMERA, Azienda Speciale della Camera di Commercio di Milano, fornisce servizi di automazione alla Camera ed al sistema delle imprese. Consentire alle imprese di usufruire di servizi istituzionali ed a valore commerciale in modo efficiente dal luogo di produzione è lo scopo principale dell'Azienda. CEDCAMERA sviluppa inoltre un programma per il sostegno e lo sviluppo della filiera delle imprese multimediali in Italia ed all'estero (DIMMI).

ENEA Ente per Nuove Tecnologie, Energia e Ambiente
Division INN-DIFF
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Descrizione: L'ENEA è un'organizzazione pubblica a livello nazionale che opera nel campo delle nuove tecnologie, l'energia e l'ambiente. La divisione "Diffusione dell'Innovazione" è attiva nella diffusione e trasferimento tecnologico, indirizzati principalmente alle piccole e medie imprese. L'ENEA è anche Innovation Relay Centre e partecipa come partner a svariati programmi europei.

INFOCAMERE S.c.p.A.
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Descrizione: InfoCamere (Società Consortile di Informatica delle Camere di Commercio Italiane per azioni), assicura la gestione e lo sviluppo delle

applicazioni informatiche necessarie al funzionamento del sistema delle Camere di Commercio italiane. InfoCamere offre anche servizi di consulenza e di assistenza alle Camere di Commercio a loro supporto nello svolgimento dei compiti istituzionali di promozione e sviluppo dell'economia e dell'imprenditoria locali.

ESPAÑA

La misión de los nodos MIDAS-NET españoles es triple:

- Promover el mercado multimedia en España, dando soporte a las pequeñas y medianas empresas (PYME), y a las instituciones que las representan;
- Ofrecer una nueva plataforma de acciones y actividades orientadas a aumentar el conocimiento de los usuarios en el uso de información multimedia transregional y transfronteriza;
- Incremento de la sinergia en el mercado digital de la publicación.

El URL para este país es:
http://www.info2000.csic.es/midas-net/

Co-ordinator

ASEDIE Asociación Española de Distribuidores de Información Electrónica
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Tel.: 34 1 7261039
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Descripción: ASEDIE, Asociación Española de Distribuidores de Información Electrónica es una asociación científica sin ánimo de lucro que tiene la finalidad de promover el desarrollo y la utilización de la información automatizada, producida y distribuida en España por medios telemáticos, en disco óptico o a través de cualquier otro soporte informático.

Sus miembros son personas jurídicas que ejercen una actividad de distribución pública de servicios con valor añadido relativos a la produccion, edicion y difu-

sion de información electrónica. Actualmente ASEDIE cuenta con 32 miembros, instituciones / empresas pertenecientes tanto al sector público como al privado, que confieren a la Asociación una altísima representación del sector, próxima al 70 % de los productores / distribuidores de información electrónica en España.

Partners

CINDOC-CSIC Centro de Información y documentación científica
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Descripción: Producción, promoción y distribución de información electrónica

Co-ordinator

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Descripción : La FCR es una institución sin ánimo de lucro dedicada a promover la investigación científica con una visión amplia de la ciencia al servicio de la sociedad. Creada en 1986, la FCR tiene como finalidad promover la convergencia de iniciativas de personas y de entidades interesadas en apoyar la investigación. El principal objetivo de la FCR es promover la investigación científico-técnica y la innovación tecnológica.

PORTUGAL

O objectivo principal do Nó da Rede MIDAS-NET em Portugal é integrar as actividades da comunidade multimédia portuguesa, estimulando a consciencialização e utilização dos serviços e aplicações de informação multimédia.

O URL para este país é:
http://www.ineti.pt/citi/midas-net/home.html

Co-ordinator

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Fax: 351 1 7164732
E-mail: midas-pt@citi.ineti.pt

Descrição: O INETI é um organismo pertencente ao Ministério da Economia do Governo Português. Em Portugal, é a principal entidade estatal de ID&D-Investigação, Desenvolvimento e Demonstração desenvolvendo actividades no âmbito da modernização da economia, dos serviços e dos respectivos sistemas de apoio (infra-estruturas) a nível nacional.

Partners

APM Associação Portuguesa de Multimédia
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Descrição: A Associação Portuguesa de Multimédia, criada em 1994, é uma entidade sem fins lucrativos destinada a representar, interna ou externamente, as organizações ou pessoas individuais ligadas aos sistemas multimédia.

O seu objecto social visa promover a difusão e o desenvolvimento dos sistemas e tecnologias multimédia e o intercâmbio de conhecimentos a nível nacional e internacional nos domínios da investigação e desenvolvimento tecnológico.

Um dos principais objectivos estatutários é defender e dinamizar a actividade das empresas e outras organizações de multimédia.

A APM tem ainda como objectivo criar ou dinamizar estruturas que aumentem a capacidade de produção nacional em multimédia.

Associação para a Promoção do
Multimédia em Portugal (PT SIG-MM)
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Fax: 351 1 3556933
E-mail: apm@ip.pt

Descrição: A Associação para a
Promoção do Multimédia em Portugal é
uma associação privada sem fins lucra-
tivos recentemente criada com o objec-
tivo de promover a indústria multimedia
nacional, representando para o efeito
um conjunto de associados (editores,
distribuidores, produtores, formadores,
investigadores, consultores, etc.) junto
de instâncias públicas e privadas a nível
nacional e internacional. A Associação é
uma plataforma de discussão e inter-
venções partilhadas entre os vários
intervenientes do sector das tecnologias
e serviços multimedia, um parceiro
social, económico e cultural na área do
multimedia, um polo de sensibilização
da opinião pública, um interlocutor
internacional e uma plataforma de defe-
sa da língua e patrimónios portugueses.

IM-MC Estrutura de Apoio à Iniciativa
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Descrição: O IM-MC é uma estrutura de
projecto implementado no âmbito do
Ministério da Cultura. A Iniciativa
Mosaico pretende alcançar dois objec-
tivos principais: tornar a cultura
Portuguesa mais facilmente acessível ao
cidadão e contribuir para o desenvolvi-
mento de uma sustentada indústria
Portuguesa multimédia baseada em
conteúdos culturais.

The last issue of ECHO facts for users
for 1997 (4/97) will feature statements
from MIDAS-NET nodes and their part-
ners based in Belgium, Luxembourg,
Greece, Ireland and the United
Kingdom.

MIDAS-NET involvement in the European Information Society Awareness Week

6-11 October 1997
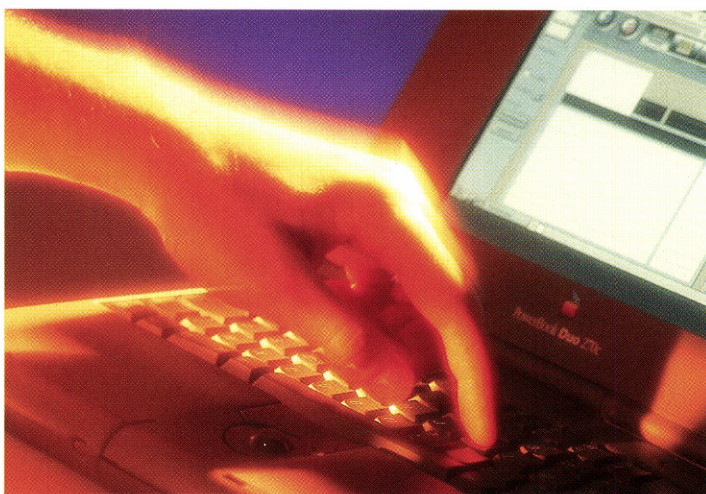
What is EISAW?

The European Information Society Week
(EISAW) 1997 is an initiative of the
Information Society Projects Office, in
association with the Euro Info Centres -
DG XXIII (EIC), which was held
throughout 25 cities all over Europe
from 6-11 October 1997.

Its aim was to increase the knowledge
of SMEs in the field of modern Infor-
mation and Communication Techno-
logies, ICT, such as Internet, electronic
commerce, tele-working, education, dis-
tance learning and marketing in order to
support and expand their current busi-
ness. The events of EISAW 1997 provid-
ed SMEs with practical information, suc-
cess stories, hands-on practice and
training.

Each Euro Info Centre involved prepared
a specific programme in order to enable
businesses to learn about the develop-
ments in the area of "Information
Society". Other networks, organisations
and federations were also involved in
the organisation using their expertise to
ensure a week of successful events.

Why did the MIDAS-NET nodes collaborate in this action?

In order to enhance the impact of
EISAW on the SMEs and to ensure syn-
ergy among EC initiatives, EICs and
MIDAS-NET nodes cooperated together
for a series of important events.

These two European networks collabo-
rated to serve SMEs better with respect
to the Information market and to max-
imise the creation of favourable condi-
tions for the development of the
European content industry, to share
experience and expertise by avoiding
overlapping of work.

Several actions were selected for raising
awareness among the general public,
especially SMEs and user groups in trade
and industry, such as promotional
events, published newsletters, and
organisation of awareness activities.

MIDAS-NET involvement in EISAW

MIDAS-NET nodes have promoted the
event on their web sites by means of

documentation, references and links relevant to EISAW. In addition, other promotional events took place such as TV and radio interviews and press releases. In any case, besides the promotion of the benefits of IT to SMEs, MIDAS-NET existence and aims have been widely communicated, through leaflets, posters and the nodes newsletters and bulletins.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the MIDAS-NET involvement in EISAW achieved the enhancement of awareness level on IT benefits for SMEs and MIDAS-NET activities.

MIDAS-NET contributed in providing SMEs with practical information on IT through seminars, conferences, expositions, training sessions and promotion campaigns. Awareness material such as leaflets, brochures, bulletins and newsletters diffused information not only on IT but also on MIDAS-NET to a wider public.

This was the first year of co-operation of MIDAS-NET with EICs during EISAW and the Network's dynamic performance fulfilled the desired synergy among EC initiatives.

Further information on all aspects of the MIDAS-NET network can be obtained from:

Complete contact details of all the MIDAS-NET nodes can be obtained from the following URL:

http://www.echo.lu/info2000/midas/home.html

The MIDAS-NET Central Support Team can also be contacted at the following address:

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The rules governing the procedure in the award of public procurement

The political context

Completing the single market and ensuring that it functions properly is one of the urgent, priority tasks which the European Union has set itself. This objective will, however, be achieved only when all firms can compete on an equal footing for contracts awarded by public and private bodies.

The Treaty of Rome embodied the initial public procurement rules which prohibit any discrimination on grounds of nationality and any restriction in the choice of supplies or services. Nevertheless, these obligations were too general and imprecise to be easily applied. The first public procurement Community directives provided a more specific framework enshrining the basic rules applicable to public procurement procedures. The basic principles embodied in the Rome Treaty remain applicable to all procurement outside the scope of application of the directives.

After the publication of the White Paper (1) on completing the internal market, the existing procedures ensuring transparency in public procurement and the opening-up of the sector to effective competition were improved. The objective of all these actions is to allow public and semi-public bodies to buy goods and services of a better quality and at a better price thus contributing concretely to economic growth by stimulating competition.

The opening-up of public procurement is thus a genuine challenge, not only for public or semi-public entities, which will have to bring their procurement practices into line with Community rules, but also for enterprises, which demonstrate their interest in open procurement.

(1) The "White Paper" on completing the internal market was published on 14th June 1985.

The economic importance of public procurement

The figures speak for themselves! In 1995, the volume of public procurement was ECU 900 billion, or 12% of Community Gross Domestic Product of the 15 Member States. Clearly, all these contracts cannot be effectively opened up to Community-wide competition, since, for example, some of them relate to products that are too specific or purchased in too small quantities. Another striking feature of importance of public procurement is the constant rise of the number of tender notices which are being published in the Official Journal.

The Community legal context

Treaty of Rome

The Treaty of Rome of 25 March 1957 does not lay down any specific rule relating to public procurement. It does, however, establish four fundamental principles that apply to public contracts whatever their value:

- no discrimination on grounds of nationality (Article 6 of EC treaty)
- free movement of goods and the prohibition of quantitative restrictions on imports and exports and measures having equivalent effect (Articles 30 et seq.)
- freedom of establishment (Articles 52 et seq.)
- freedom to provide services (Articles 59 et seq.).

Legislative provisions

The rules enshrined in the Treaty prohibit certain unfair practices, but do not establish any positive obligation ensuring transparency and competition in contract award procedures. Legislative action was thus called for at Community level.

Such action was, and is, all the more necessary as a response to the major

concerns voiced by the enterprises interested in Public Procurement, which resolve the need for:

- the best possible information to enable firms to prepare their tenders properly and satisfy the legitimate requirements of public purchasers;
- the greatest possible transparency in public procurement so that decisions are taken by public purchasers in a balanced fashion throughout the Community;
- gradual reform of procurement practices.

Concerning "public works" contracts and "public supply" contracts, the initial directives were adopted in 1971(2) and 1977(3). They were amended several times and are now consolidated in two Directives:

Directive 93/36/EEC coordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts and consolidating Directives 80/767/EEC and 88/295/EEC (OJ No L 199 of 9 August 1993);

Directive 93/37/EEC coordinating the procedures for the award of public works contracts and consolidating Directives 71/305/EEC and 89/440/EEC (OJ No. L 199 of 9 August 1993);

For public service contracts, a specific Directive, the Directive 92/50/EEC relating to the coordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts (OJ No L 209 of 24 July 1992), entered into force on 1st July 1993.

The Directive 89/665/EEC harmonises review procedures for public supply, public works and public service contracts (OJ No L 395 of 30 December 1989).

Concerning the utilities (entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors) as a result of political, economic and legal con-

(2) Directive 71/305/CEE on public works contracts (OJ No L185 of 16 August 1971). Directive 89/440/EEC on public work contracts, amending Directive 71/305/CEE (OJ No L 210 of 12 July 1989).

(3) Directive 77/62/EEC on public supply contracts (OJ No L 13 of 15 January 1977); Directive 80/767/EEC, on public supply contracts, amending Directive 77/62/EEC (OJ No L 127 of 20 May 1988).

sideration, a specific Directive was adopted, Directive 90/531/EEC (OJ No L 199 of 9th August 1993). A specific Directive on review procedures for contracts in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors was adopted, the Directive 92/13/CEE (OJ No L 76 of 23rd March 1992).

It should be stressed that the aim of these Directives is not to harmonize all national rules on public procurement. It is to coordinate national contract award procedures by introducing a minimum body of common rules for contracts above a given threshold. These common rules are the following:

- rules defining the type of public purchaser an the scope of contracts subject to the Directives;
- rules defining the type of contract award procedure which public purchasers should normally use;
- rules on technical specifications, whereby preference is to be given to Community standards, and discriminatory technical requirements are banned from the contract documents;
- advertising rules, whereby tender notices must be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, must comply with specific requirements concerning time-limits and must be drawn up in accordance with pre-established models;
- common rules on participation, comprising objective criteria for qualitative selection and for the award of contracts (either the lowest price or the most economically advantageous tender, at the contrasting authority's choice.);

- obligations as regards statistical reporting allowing the Commission to have a practical knowledge concerning the functioning of these rules.

International Agreements on public procurement

The GPA (Government Procurement Agreement) Plurilateral agreement

Signing and coverage of the agreement

On 15th April 1994, simultaneously with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, the EU signed a new agreement with its partners (4) aimed at opening up of public procurement to effective competition. The new agreement, which entered into force on 1 January 1996, is more ambitious than the previous 1979 GATT agreement, which it replaces. The new agreement covers, in addition to supplies, works and services. Furthermore, it is no longer limited to procurement by central state authorities at regional and local level. The "GPA" also covers the ports, airports, water, electricity and urban transport sectors. The new "GPA" opens up government contracts to international bidding worth around 350 billion ECU every year (a ten-fold increase on the value of the 1979 agreement).

The "GPA" is built on the general principles of national treatment, non-discrimination and transparency and follows the EU Directives closely. The new agreement obliges each signatory to

(4) The other contracting parties to this agreement are the USA, Japan, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Israel and South Korea (Austria, Finland and Sweden have since acceded to the European Union).

Public Authorities

Supplies	Works	Services	Remedies
77/62/EEC	71/305/EEC		
80/767/EEC	89/440/EEC		
88/295/EEC		92/50/EEC	89/665/EEC

Utilities

Supplies, work	Supplies, work and services	Remedies
90/531/EEC	93/38/EEC	92/13/EEC

provide non-discriminatory and transparent procurement procedures. The "GPA" also provides for a system of thresholds which trigger these obligations, a prohibition on discriminatory technical specifications, an obligation to publish tender notices and an obligation to use objective and non-discriminatory criteria to contract selection and award. The "GPA" also provides for challenge procedures for aggrieved suppliers as well as a dispute settlement mechanism for the parties.

Consequences of the GPA agreement on Community Directives

Even though the "GPA" is based on the EU public procurement Directives, the Directives themselves will have to be slightly modified in order to avoid reverse discrimination penalising EU undertakings. Notably thresholds and time limits will have to be modified.

Two proposals for Directives have been adopted by the Commission and have been submitted to the Council and to the Parliament.

The EU/USA Bilateral agreement

On the 15th April 1994, in parallel to the "GPA" the European Union concluded a bilateral agreement on procurement with the USA. Most of this agreement has been integrated into the "GPA" in the form of amendments to the schedule of commitments granted by the EU and the USA. It is estimated that the EU-US bilateral agreement will open around 200 billion ECU of public contracts to competitive bidding.

Thanks to this agreement, contracts awarded by state governments in the US will be open to bidders from the EU. Procurement of goods, works and services at state and city levels will be open to EU firms above designated threshold values, as well as procurements by certain ports and airports. Contracts financed by the Rural Electrification Administration will also be open to Community undertakings.

Other agreements

The Commission promotes the extension of the "GPA" to other countries. The Commission has already had preliminary contacts with China and Taiwan.

The Commission is also looking to expand commitments vis-à-vis the EU of countries that have already signed the GPA. Negotiations are under way with Switzerland, Korea and Israel. Discussions with Canada are also due shortly.

Source

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TED Information Space

ECHO is currently preparing an "Information Space" site regarding TED which will serve to position the database in the area of public procurement.

Documents containing information on this subject (such as the above) as well as details on relevant legal documents will be made available to the public via the web. A section on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will also be one of its features. At a later stage it will be available in all 11 official languages of the European Union. The "Information Space" will link to the TED databases. Further details will be provided as soon as they are available.

The TED help desk is at your disposal for any questions relating to the above:

Please contact

ted@echo.lu

The series of speeches delivered at the Bonn Conference have been updated and are available via I*M-Europe: *http://www.echo.lu/bonn/speeches.html*

Multimedia in Europe - Summary of the speech delivered in Berlin by Commissioner Martin Bangemann on the Mediacongress 1997 - 1 September 1997: *http://eudoc/en/multimediamarket.html*

New standards have been added to the OII Standards and Specifications List:

- The OII Standards and Specifications Fora List;
- Data Classification Standards;
- Document Interchange Standards;
- Electronic Conferencing Standards;
- Information Security Standards.
http://www.echo.lu/oii/en/oiistand.html#oiistand

The Legal Advisory Board:

- A new monthly electronic newsletter on information law, with references to online resources and paper documentation;
- National and International Law Sites Information Law Sites.
http://www.echo.lu/legal/en/news/9709/frontpage.html

I*M-Europe adopts HTML style guide

In order to harmonise all sections of the I*M Europe server, and to create a truly corporate image for this WWW site, stringent guidelines regarding the layout, look and feel of the server are being applied. This gradual process will ensure that each web page and each document implemented is of the highest quality.

Any questions regarding I*M-Europe can be addressed to:

webmaster@echo.lu

The MLIS (Multilingual Information Society) Programme offers you opportunities to present your product

One of the main objectives of accompanying measures of the MLIS programme is raising awareness about and stimulating the use of multilingual language products and services available on the market.

In order to be able to identify multilingual products and services so that they may be used for presentation and/or demonstration purposes to potential target user groups, the European Commission proposes the following to companies and individuals active in this market:

- interested companies/individuals are invited to contact the EC (European Commission) and to present their product. If suitable, the product will be listed in an inventory which is updated regularly and is made widely available to target audiences via the I*M-Europe WWW (World Wide Web) site;
- subject to agreement the products and services may be presented and demonstrated on I*M Europe as practical examples of what is available. Please note: The EC will not endorse or recommend the product but will offer a neutral ground for the demonstration of the tool/service concerned;
- some of the applications presented on I*M Europe may be editorially showcased at regular intervals, either on a monthly or on a weekly basis;
- the most attractive products in terms of innovativemess, user-friendliness and suitability for demonstration purposes may be invited to participate at events at which the European Union is present. The product will be demonstrated on the European Union "Common Stand". The Commission will cover the cost of the exhibition stand and its build-up, while the demonstrating company/individual will bear the costs of the set up of the product and, if necessary, the manning of the work space during the exhibition.

Through this initiative the Commission will, on the one hand, demonstrate what a multilingual information society could look like if existing multilingual products and services are employed more generally. On the other, the initiative will enable the Commission to establish a closer contact with the language industry and the many (potential) users who are an important factor for the success of the MLIS programme.

Through this, the language industry has been provided with a unique opportunity to expose and to demonstrate their products and services in a true European context, in addition to having them listed in a world-wide directory.

Interested parties should complete the questionnaire which is available on the I*M-Europe WWW site at the following URL:

http://www.echo.lu/mlis/en/application.html

Further information can be obtained from:

Karsten Strørup
European Commission
Euroforum Building
Office 1186
Rue.Alcide de Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg.

E-mail:
karsten.stroerup@lux.dg13.cec.be

DG XIII live at the 49th Frankfurt Book Fair

During the Frankfurt Book Fair, a series of interviews with key DG XIII/E officials, leading analysts and industry representatives were broadcast on the subject of electronic publishing and multimedia. The DG XIII/E interviews will cover issues related to the recent development in the European Information and multimedia markets.

To see the industry representatives discuss their views, tune into I*M Europe!

http://www.echo.lu/live

Further details will be provided in issue 4/97 of ECHO facts for users.

CORDIS: Bringing customised information directly to your desktop

http://www.cordis.lu/

CORDIS introduces two new, time-saving features on its web site that enable users to effortlessly obtain information specifically catered to their needs: **RAPIDUS** and the **searchable Document Library**. These features free-up the user's time so that he may concentrate on core activities. With RAPIDUS, there is no longer a need to search for the newest items: information updates are automatically delivered to the user's desktop. With the Document Library's new searching capabilities, users can now specify required criteria in order to obtain needed document(s) much faster.

RAPIDUS: The New CORDIS Messenger

RAPIDUS (RAPId Delivery of Updates on Search-profiles) is designed to save

users valuable time. With the new RAPIDUS service users can now save their database search-profiles and be automatically informed about updates of results which match their search criteria.

According to the search profiles that have been saved, **RAPIDUS** automatically notifies users of such items as:

- new funding opportunities;
- recent calls for tender;
- updated programme information and much more, thereby allowing the user to spend valuable time on other activities.

With RAPIDUS, users now have the ability to:

SAVE DATABASE SEARCH-PROFILES

By saving any of their CORDIS database search-profiles, users do not have to continuously enter the same information; RAPIDUS allows them to create and save their personal search-profile by:

- entering their search-profile on a standard search screen;
- saving their search-profile once they are satisfied with their search results
- registering to obtain a username and password;
- logging on to RAPIDUS with their username and password;
- giving a name and brief description to their search-profile. This search-profile will then be added to their customised search-profile list.

RECEIVE UPDATES AUTOMATICALLY

Users will have the extra benefit of automatically receiving updates, which match their search-profile(s). These updates will be sent to them via e-mail, whenever there is an update to the CORDIS databases.

MANAGE A CUSTOMISED SEARCH - PROFILE LIST

There is no limit to the number of search-profiles users can now save. They may modify or delete profiles from their list anytime they choose by simply logging-on.

Searchable Document Library

Now users can search the Document Library in its new database format and find items much faster. Principal documents such as work programmes, information packages, calls for proposals and policy green papers can easily be found without having to scroll down the entire list of available documents. The user directly searches for documents in the Document Library under the "Search Databases" area of the web site. By specifying the necessary criteria such as "search terms", "dates", "current or expired documents", and "language", the user gains faster access to the desired document(s).

RAPIDUS and the searchable Document Library, both time-saving features, are the beginning of a series of new enhancements that CORDIS is introducing to meet users' needs.

Please Note:

Contact details for CORDIS have changed!

CORDIS Customer Service
2, rue Pletzer
L-8080 Helfent-Bertrange
Luxembourg

Tel: (+352) 44 10 12 2240
Fax: (+352) 44 10 12 2248
E-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu
http://www.cordis.lu/

Community R&D Information Service

I am interested in receiving information on

CORDIS ON-LINE DATABASES ☐   CORDIS DATABASES ON CD-ROM ☐   Watch-CORDIS ☐

Name ....

Organisation/Company ....

Address..

City..

Country ....
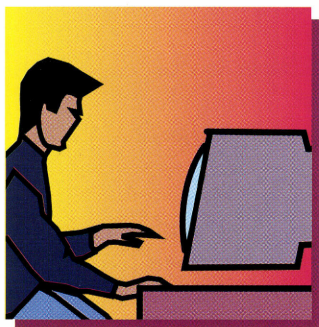
CORDIS Customer Service, CORDIS fax (+352) **44 10 12 2248**

La semaine européenne du télétravail '97

du 4 au 8 novembre 1997 à Luxembourg

Dans le cadre de la semaine européenne du télétravail, le Luxembourg a décidé de s'associer à cet événement important en organisant une série de manifestations.

Avec l'appui du Ministère du Travail, de la Commune de Luxembourg et de la Chambre de Commerce, le Luxembourg organisera du 4 au 8 novembre 1997 des opérations "porte ouverte" avec démonstrations, distributions de documentation, permanence d'information et téléconférences avec les services de la Commission européenne à Bruxelles.

En réseau avec la région d'Arlon et de Longwy des démonstrations sur le télé-service seront organisées.

Enfin des débats entre hommes politiques, chefs d'entreprises et experts auront lieu durant cette semaine.

Cette manifestation bénéficie du sponsoring du Foyer, d'Arthur Andersen et de Bull. Elle est organisée par le Ceps-Instead en collaboration avec Infopartners S.A.

Programme prévisionnel de ces journées:

- Opération porte ouverte pour l'information et sensibilisation du public au télétravail. Deux bureaux d'information seront ouverts, un à Luxembourg-ville et un à Differdange.

- Téléconférence avec les DG XIII et DGV Bruxelles et en parallèle projection des débats et d'un film réalisé par les DG XIII sur le sujet.

- Déjeuner-débat avec les hommes politiques, syndicats, chefs d'entreprises et experts.

- Démonstration en collaboration avec Idelux, Arlon et le Collège européen de Technologie (CET), Longwy, sur les télé-services.

Des études et rapports sur le télétravail seront distribués.

Une demi-journée sera consacrée aux élèves des lycées et collèges.

Une conférence de presse clôturera ces manifestations.

Ces manifestations sont soutenues par la Commission européenne et l'entrée en sera libre.

ORGANISATION

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Fax: (+352) 585588
E-mail: pierre@hermes.ceps.lu

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L- 1508 Howald
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E-mail: infopartners@ip.lu
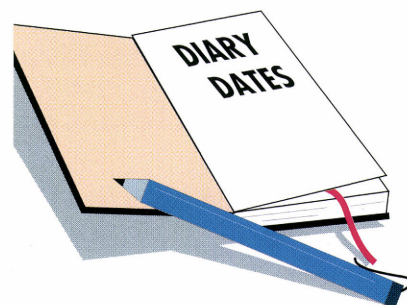
ECHO will be represented at the following events:

London	On-line 97	09-11/12/97
Cannes	Milia	08-11/02/98
Frankfurt	INFOBASE	12-14/05/98