

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmonthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • Aug. 2001/No 21

TVP-KRRIT organises int'l conference in Poland

The role of regional television in developing cross-border co-op

From September 10-11

TVP (Telewizja Polska) in conjunction with KRRIT (the Broadcasting Board) are organising a conference on "The Role of Regional Television in Developing Cross-border Co-operation", to be held in Czarna, near Rzeszow in the Bieszczady region in the south east area of Poland, September 10-11.

The purpose of the meeting is to exchange ideas and experiences, to establish new contacts and to tighten the co-operation links, which already exist among the regional stations. The programme of the conference will include multimedia presentations of particular regional stations.

CR President, Lefty Kongalides, will be the keynote speaker, while other speakers on the panel include Juliusz Braun, Chairman of KRRIT, Robert Kwiatkowski, Chairman of the TVP Board, Tomasz Globam-Klas, professor.

The EKO 2001 Grand Prix goes to MKRTV's "Stones"

The Second International Festival on TV programmes dedicated on the protection of the environment and cultural heritage was held last June in Ohrid. Within 'EKO-2001' 29 programmes were presented coming from 19 countries from Europe and Asia. The jury members were Mr. Sinisa Aleksic (Yugoslavia), Mr. Apostol Pencev (Bulgaria) and Mr. Meto Petrovski (FYRO Macedonia). The awards were given as follows:

- Grand Prix of 'EKO-2001' for the most outstanding entry in general competition was given to the 'Stones Sing for the Roots' produced by the Macedonian Radio Television. This prize of 3,000 DEM is awarded by CIRCOM Regional
- The Prize for the best camerawork (Silver Graving and 1,000 DEM) is awarded to Jamil Akdtar from TV Pakistan for 'Thar After Rain'
- The Prize for the best editing is awarded to Hartmut Altenpohl for 'The Prometheus Principle' produced by Deutsche Welle (Silver Graving and 1,000 DEM)
- The Prize for the best script-writing is awarded Silver Graving and 1,000 DEM TO Brinduse Armanca and Jitarius Cosmin for their entrant programme 'Return of Kangaroos' in production of Romanian Television, TV Timisoara. This prize is awarded by the Broadcasting Council of the Republic of Macedonia
- The Prize for best direction (Silver Graving and 1,000 DEM) is awarded to Mr. Cavdar Gagov, director of 'Pastoral Eroticon' in production of the Bulgarian National Television. This prize is awarded by UNDP (United Nations Development Program) – Skopje office
- The Prize of Co.Pe.A.M (Permanent Conference of Audiovisual Organisations of the Mediterranean) for the best entrants in ecology at the Mediterranean estimated at 10,000 Ffr, was awarded to the following authors:
 - a) 'Manacles' produced by the Macedonian Radio Television
 - b) 'From the Blue South to the Green Isle' produced by TRT, Channel II Istanbul
- UNESCO-OCAM IFTC Certificate (International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication) for the entrant that illustrates the best values towards peace and tolerance among people, is awarded to the documentary video presentation by the title Ohrid & Prespa – The Balkan Pearls' produced by Albanian TV
- Ecological Press Center distributed Statuette 'The Macedonian Orchid' that is awarded to the programme edition 'Mangles' produced by the Macedonian Radio Television

The CIRCOM Report pages are No 1 on CR's web site

The CIRCOM Report pages on the CIRCOM Regional official web site are the most visited pages according to a survey conducted by Marko Pirpic, CR's web wiz in Slovenia. While the lowest number of visitors has been 2,618 (for the CIRCOM Report of February 2000), the readership of the first issue of 2001 went up to 8,243. There is a continuous growth of visitors with 47,250 visitors altogether.



Prix CIRCOM on EbS in September

The prize winners programmes and runners-up of PRIX CIRCOM Regional 2001 will be broadcast on Europe by Satellite up to September 15.

Transmission of the first two programmes "Saturday at Last" by TVP (Grand Prix News) and "Chernobyl Dwellers" by Biatystock (Grand Prix Documentary) has been scheduled as follows:

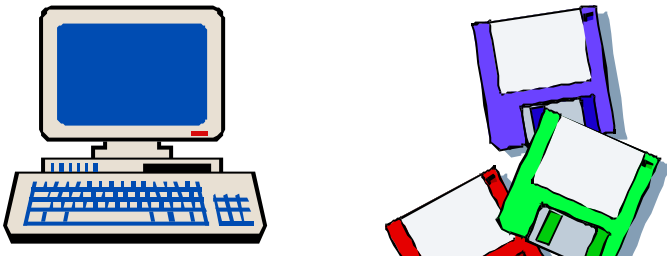
Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 22.00 CET
Thursday, Sept. 13 at 5.00 CET
Saturday, Sept. 15 at 10.00 CET

EU may mandate Internet

The right to Internet access is not yet among the universal human rights, but it seems to be getting there. The European Commission, which is the European Union's executive body, is working on a proposal which states Internet access must be available for all citizens. Once the regulation is approved, all member states will be obliged to supply universal Internet service.

The European Parliament won't be able to approve the proposal before next year, but Spain, which is to take over the presidency of the E.U. in 2002, is already moving in the direction of universal Internet access for its citizens.

The Spanish government plans to replace 260,000 telephone lines that lack Internet connections in rural areas throughout the next year. Telefonica, the dominant European telecommunication company, is obliged to deploy universal service, and will be responsible for the replacement of the connections.



Moscow TV station extension

Moscow Mayor Yurii Luzhkov announced on 8 August that the regional television channel TV Tsentr, which is controlled by the Moscow city government, is planning to extend its broadcasting to the territory of Belarus, Moldova, and some areas of Ukraine, Interfax reported. Mr Luzhkov stated that TV Tsentr head Oleg Poptsov has managed to make the station's broadcasts politically unbiased. TV Tsentr's potential audience will be about 74 million, many of whom, according to Mr Luzhkov, will be interested in how Moscow solves its economic and social problems.

In addition, TV Tsentr also intends to target the large portion of the city of Moscow's population that consists of the people from these regions.

Surf the Net through a plug socket

What if you could surf the Net by plugging your computer into an electricity socket, rather than your phone line? Austrian utility company EVN has been given green light to do more field trials of its Powerline Internet technology, which hooks homes up to the Web through electricity sockets. The system works by transmitting information in the form of electromagnetic signals through a home's mains power socket into a decoder which then converts the message into computer code. After limited trials, EVN plans to further test the system in the next few weeks before launching the product commercially. Powerline applications could be the alternative to the super-charged copper telephone wires known as asymmetric digital subscriber lines.

Ahead of its time, TVnewsweb closes its doors

The big agencies hated it, but TVnewsweb could have had a great future. The first-ever news agency selling broadcast-quality footage to TV stations via the Internet broke new ground, elbowing agents out of the way and acting as a "dating service" between the people who shoot the news and the broadcasters who air it. Freelance cameramen and journalists were able to display their footage on TVnewsweb's Web site, which operated like a shop window. News editors at TV networks picked stories from an a la carte menu instead of being forced to sign expensive annual agency contracts. Unfortunately, TVnewsweb ran out of money last week, a victim of lagging technology. To work, the idea depended on buyers with access to high-quality broadband Internet access that would enable them to download broadcast-quality video direct from the Internet in minutes. Currently, only a handful of TV companies are capable of doing so. TVnewsweb's strategy was sound -- but its timing was off. Bill Hood, managing director of TVnewsweb, who is still holding out hopes of rescuing the company, put it aptly when he said: "I think the investors could see it coming, but maybe it wasn't coming quickly enough."

TV news bows to the computer age

Read any good television lately? The volume of on-screen information will increase in the next two months when new versions of CNN Headline News and ESPNEWS are launched as part of the transformation of TV viewing in the computer age. CNN Headline News will include business news, headlines and a weather map in an expanded display that will leave only about half of the TV picture for news anchors, starting Aug. 6. On Sept. 7, sports channel ESPNEWS will move from a single line of scores to a larger band that also includes game updates and news items. Network logos, small and relatively discreet, were in the vanguard of on-screen data. Now, broadcast networks and cable and satellite channels are cramming more and more onto valuable screen real estate.

Pan-European broadband gives faster access to internet connections

Europeans will soon have access to Internet connections ten times faster than the modem speeds they are used to at present, according to telecoms company Tiscali.

The Italy-based company signed an agreement with Gilat Satellite Networks to provide a two-way satellite broadband Internet service to be available all over Europe by the end of the year .

Tiscali said the new service will exceed the geographic limitations of DSL-based technology by reaching areas not wired for high-speed telephone connections in Europe.

No half-price TV for half-blind Swede

A Swedish man who is blind in one eye and partially sighted in the other has lost an appeal for a half-price television license.

The television authority declined to lower the man's license fee because under Swedish law decrees public television is funded by a non-flexible annual fee, TT news agency reported.

The Swedish national association of the blind is negotiating with the authorities to change this.

EU gives initial backing to ".eu" domain

It looks like the .com domain will soon have a European counterpart, as European Union ministers approved the setting up of the .eu Internet domain for pan-European companies, associations and institutions.

The new domain could become a cyber-reality in 2002, should the European Parliament agree.

EU's executive body, the European Commission, plans to set up a non-profit registry for the organisation, administration and management of the .eu domain.

BBC Online to charge Net

The BBC may start to charge fees for its online content to cover the costs of putting programming on the Internet.

BBC Online, one of the most successful sites in the world, is currently entirely free and regarded as part of the BBC's public service remit.

But half of BBC Online's 10 million users come from overseas and have not paid any license fee, the tax paid by the British public to support the BBC

'If all the BBC's content was streamed on the Web it could cost billions of pounds,' said Ashley Highfield, the BBC's director of new media.

12th International Sports TV Convention in Monaco

The Grimaldi Forum, Monaco's new convention center that opened last year, is going to host the 12th International Sports Television Convention October 4-7.

Sportel Monaco – along with its sister – market, Sportelamerica – have established themselves as the largest and most important meeting places for international television sports executives of all fields from the expanding world of televised sport.

The meeting offers a great deal of advertising and promotional opportunities, such as be advertised on the official Sportel Guide, sponsor various activities, include a procure in the Official Sportel bag, advertise your company in the official Magazine or display your advertising banners on the web.

The registration fee for exhibitors amounts to 5,946 euros, while for non-exhibitors is 549 euros.

For more information contact:
Tel: (201) 8694022, fax: (201) 8694335, e-mail: vitcomusa@earthlink.net .

The 19th Int'l Sport Movies & TV Festival

Perhaps the most important worldwide festival dedicated to sports television and movies is going to be held in Milan (Italy), from 27 October to 1 November, 2001. The festival which is organised by the Federation Internationale du Cinema et de la Television Sportive and is recognised by the International Olympic Committee will take place at the remarkable Palazzo dei Giureconsulti, while the Sport Movies & TV will be articulated in different moments: a) festival, b) meetings, c) exhibitions, d) side events.

According to the President, professor Franco B. Ascani, the aim is to spread the knowledge and diffusion of sport movies, promote the quality of sports images, underline olympism and encourage producers to meet and cooperate.

In fact, the importance of the festival is explained by the figures ad formed in 2000. 74 countries, 550 hours of projection, 453 films and videos registered, 1000 champions of the screen, 185.000 visitors and spectators 40.000 professional visitors.

The participation in the Festival is free while the deadline for submitting a project is July 15, 2001.

For more information check at www.ficts.com

Independent producers complain to BBC

The BBC could be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading over claims that it is unfair to the independent producers behind some of its most popular programmes.

An alliance representing the programme-makers has made a formal complaint that the BBC is abusing its dominant position in the marketplace.

The Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television said: "The independent sector has been a huge creative sector, but the BBC's terms of trade are stifling it and preventing it from reaching its full potential."

It complains that even if the BBC pays the production costs, programme-makers should retain all the rights to further transmissions and to worldwide sales.

"Frasier" actor breaks TV salary record

Kelsey Grammer, who plays Seattle psychoanalyst Frasier Crane in the long-running sitcom "Frasier", has become the highest-paid actor in TV history, according to a report in Variety.

The trade paper said on Friday that Mr Grammer has agreed to stay with the hit NBC comedy for the 2002 and 2003 seasons for a record fee of more than £1.8m per episode.

In addition to starring, Mr Grammer also serves as an executive producer and occasional director on the programme.

Variety said representatives for Paramount and Kelsey Grammer had declined to discuss the deal further, so as to keep Mr Grammer's salary details secret.

But the paper reported that altogether his two-year deal with the show's producer, Paramount Network Television, is worth about £87m, although the details were still being finalised.

"Frasier" won the Emmy for best comedy for five consecutive years, from 1994 to 98.

ITV faces worst ever ad

British ITV will this year suffer its worst slump in advertising since the start of commercial television 50 years ago, the Financial Times newspaper has reported.

The paper said ITV would see revenue slip 8.9 per cent. Total UK advertising spending will drop 0.8 per cent this year – the first annual downturn since the recession of the early 1990s – the newspaper said a survey by advertising forecaster Zenith Media would suggest.

One of the reasons behind the slump is the cutback in global ad spending by US multinationals in the face of economic slowdown.

In a leaked letter to Tony Blair, Granada chief executive Charles Allen recently warned that delays in legislation on cross-media ownership were making his company vulnerable to take-over approaches from foreign companies.

Venice Conference on audiovisuals

OCCAM (Observatoire pour la Communication Culturelle et Audiovisuelle en Méditerranée) in the framework of the Mostra Internazionale du Cinema de Venise, will hold at Palazzo del Casino, in Venice, the Conference Euroméditerranée sur le Cinema on 7th September, 2001.

The theme of this year's conference is "Eudiovisual communication and interactivity: for a dialogue among the cultures". The conference is under the auspices of the United Nations organisation who has heralded 2001 as "International Year for Dialogue among cultures".

Broadband convention in London, Oct. 16-18

Network operators – CEOs, COOs, chief engineers, sales and marketing management and CRM specialists have the opportunity to register for free to BCE 2001 the largest Broadband convention in Europe which will take place in London's "Olympia" from 16-18 October 2001. The convention includes a great deal of activities:

- *an exhibition – 180 of the world's leading broadband supplies.

- *the conference – keynote speakers from Europe's leading network operators.

- *technical seminars – the latest systems and technology explained

- *billing – conference and exhibitors dedicated to network operator CRM managers.

- *content zone – Leading Linear and Web based programme providers

- *broadband bisto – working demonstrations of hardware and broadband content.

- *full social programme-Gala party and World Broadband Dinner.

For more information:

www.broadband-convention.com

Estonia hosts 2002 Eurovision Song

Television bosses in Estonia have put aside financial concerns and have confirmed that the 2002 Eurovision Song Contest will be held in the capital Tallinn. It will be the first time the contest -which can attract a Europe-wide TV audience of 70m people - is held in eastern Europe.

Aare Urm, director general of ETV, has described the chance to organise the contest as a "billion-dollar opportunity for Estonia".

The event will take place either at the Lillekula stadium or the Saarku Hall in Tallinn on 25 May next year.

The announcement was made during a visit by officials of the

European Broadcast Union (EBU), the Geneva-based association of Europe's public broadcasters, and representatives of the three most recent broadcasters to have hosted the contest.

Under the statutes of the Eurovision, the song contest can only be organised by the public service broadcasting stations.

News cabs on their way

New Yorkers will soon be able to hail the news, weather and stock quotes long with their taxis.

The tops of 50 city cabs have been equipped with electronic signs that flash sports scores, headlines, stock quotes, and ads that change their pitch based on the cab's location.

The first cabs with new signs hit the streets this spring as part of a pilot program, and the Taxi and Limousine Commission expects to authorise the signs for general use on taxis by late June. The new technology, called "Ad Runner," uses a satellite-based Internet tracking system. Along with offering a stream of information, the system can pinpoint the cab's location and adjust the ad accordingly.

The system is designed to post an ad for a particular business when the cab is in that neighbourhood.

Group to save BBC World Service

After the BBC World Service announced that it was ending short-wave broadcasts in North America and the Pacific on July 1, a group formed to try to save the broadcasts.

The World Service has had a reputation for impartial news since the 1930s and is heard on short-wave by more than 1.2m listeners, but executives want to save money by transferring to the Internet.

Protesters point out that computers cost far more than radios, and so the move would deny thousands the chance to hear the World Service.

Save the BBC World Service Coalition disputes BBC claims that listeners are abandoning short-wave and migrating to FM radio, the Internet and satellite radio, where some programmes carry parts of the World Service.

BBC appoints agnostic head of religion department

Award-winning producer Alan Bookbinder, currently an executive producer with the BBC's science department, has been appointed new head of Religion and Ethics, the first non-Christian to take the role.

Mr Bookbinder, who is the son of a Jewish father and a Catholic mother, says he feels he is on a spiritual journey and has not yet found God, though he does not rule it out.

In his new role he will be responsible for religious material across all types of BBC media, from television and radio to online. "I share religion's profound concern with the big questions: how to combat human frailty, how to deal with suffering, how to face death, how to bind as a community, and how to find self-knowledge," he commented.

The appointment of Mr Bookbinder has attracted scepticism from some quarters. Joel Edwards of the Evangelical Alliance asks: "Would the BBC appoint a head of sport who knows nothing about football?"

Journalism and regional media conference

The 4th Conference on Journalism and regional media in Europe will take place in Volos, Greece, Sept 14 - 17. Different topics will be explored by the speakers, from the place of the regional Press in Europe to the relations between journalism and the New technologies.

The organisers cover :Full accommodation (two nights and four meals), transport from Athens to Volos. A day trip to Skiathos island is also free of charge.

Fees :Journalism students members of JSN of IAMCR, journalists, researchers and academics from Central, Eastern Europe and developing countries can participate without fees. Others: Euro 50

The conference organised by the European Journalism Centre, Maastricht and the Daily Regional Newspaper Association (Greece), the Journalists Union of Thessalia, Sterea Ellada and Evia.

The European Union to broadcast United Nations programmes

The European Union and the United Nations have joined efforts for the distribution of TV programmes to broadcast media. As a first step in this co-operation, Europe by Satellite (EbS), the EU's TV news agency will distribute the UN productions "World Chronicle" in English and "UN in Action" in five UN official languages beginning 5 June.

"World Chronicle" is a weekly current affairs programme taped at headquarters featuring table discussions on priority issues of international concern by key UN officials, as well as other experts and well-known personalities.

The series "UN in Action" consists of some 60 short programmes (three to five minutes) on a yearly basis presenting a wide-scope of political, environmental, economic and social issues set against the backdrop of the Organisation's work.

EbS essentially offers broadcast professionals live coverage and news feeds relative to EU affairs, and the EbS also exchanges material on behalf of other international non-profit organisations which have the same goals as the EU.

British Telecom to broadcast through its network

The former BBC chairman Sir Christopher Bland wants to make his new company, British Telecom (BT), into a broadcaster in its own right.

Under the leadership of Mr Bland, who replaced Sir Ian Vallance as chairman in April, BT has begun looking at options for pumping TV programmes and internet content through its telephone cables into British homes.

Every home with a telephone line would be able to receive BT's service.

BT has already upgraded much of its network to make it possible to use the new ADSL technology for high-speed internet access and for broadcasting sound and moving pictures.

If the vision becomes reality, then BT will become a massive threat to the cable operators NTL and Telewest which have both invested vast sum in their fibre optic cable networks that criss-cross the UK.

Some observers speculated that the indebted telecoms giant could join forces with BSkyB, Granada Media or OnDigital to ensure it has something to broadcast through its network.

France falls at feet of "Loana"

Heavy security surrounded a farmhouse near St Tropez yesterday to protect the privacy of France's biggest star: a former stripper called Loana.

Unknown until late April, Loana Petrucciani, 23, became famous as the "fragile bimbo" on Loft Story, the hugely successful and first Gallic version of Big Brother.

Miss Petrucciani emerged from the loft as joint winner at the weekend and Loana mania is the result.

Neighbours in the celebrity-studded district are complaining about the invasion by fans and reporters ahead of the arrival of Loana and Christophe, 24, the lofteur who was picked by viewers as co-winner of the show.

"Nothing like the Loana phenomenon has ever been seen before in the history of the media," Culturepub Mag, an advertising monthly, said yesterday.

Everyone agrees that French television will never be the same after the M6 network captured huge audiences with the country's first venture into the "reality television" that has long been popular in Europe and the Americas.

BBC chief unrepentant over world service cuts

Despite the global outcry from radio listeners over the axing of short-wave transmissions, the BBC's director-general has defended his decision to switch the highly-respected World Service onto the Internet to save money.

Greg Dyke said: "The money the World Service will save will help other less well-developed parts of the world like Africa benefit from a stronger World Service FM presence." Broadcasts to the United States, Australia and New Zealand ended on July 1. The BBC says only a minority listens on short wave, and most listeners get the broadcasts via affiliate local stations on FM, or by Internet or satellite.

But campaigners say the FM service is patchy, and that many US stations "pick and mix": some only take the hourly news; others insert US news in place of BBC bulletins.

Awards to B92

The presentation of an award by the giant Serbian BK company to B92 TV station's editor-in-chief has caused a furore among the media in Belgrade.

The controversy was sparked when BK - owned by the notoriously pro-Milosevic Karic brothers - presented its annual media award to B92's Bojana Lekic.

"Many were surprised that Lekic - an active opponent of the former regime - accepted the E 17,500 from people she had formerly vilified," the Institute of War and Peace Reporting commented.

The second award to B92 comes from a less controversial body.

The Swedish Commercial Broadcasters' Association 2001 Honour Award went to Radio B92 as "a symbol of independent radio journalism and the persistent struggle for human rights."



Festivals, workshops and more around Europe and the world



AUGUST

Aug. 12 – 26: Edinburgh International Film Festival (Edinburgh, Hungary)
 Aug. 17 – 23: Chicago Underground Film Festival (Chicago, U.S.) www.cuff.org
 Aug 23 - Sep 3: Montreal World Film Festival (Montreal, Canada) www.ffm-montreal.org

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6 - 15: Toronto International Film Festival (Toronto, Canada), www.bell.ca/filmfest
 Sept. 10-14: Le Rendez-Vous French TV Screenings (France) www.tvfi.com
 Sept.14-22: Atlantic Film Festival (Halifax, Canada) www.atlanticfilm.com
 Sept. 20 – 23: Silver Lake Film Festival (Los Angeles, U.K.) www.silverlakefilmfestival.com
 Sept. 21 – Oct. 4: Vancouver International Film Festival (Vancouver, Canada) www.viff.org
 Sept.24-29: Jackson Hole Wildlife Festival (Jackson Hole, USA) www.jhfestival.org
 Sept. 27 – 30: Doclands Film Festival (Dublin, Ireland) www.doclands.ie
 Sept 28 – 30: Planet in Focus (Toronto, Canada) www.planetinfocus.org

OCTOBER

Oct 3 - 9: Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (Yamagata City, Japan), www.yamagata.yamagatajp/yidff
 Oct. 5 – 12: IFP Market (New York, US), www.ifp.org
 Oct. 8 – 12: MIPCOM (Cannes France) www.mipcom.com
 Oct. 9-11: East Cost Video Show (Atlantic City, USA) www.ecvshow.com
 Oct. 18-24: New Zealand Mountain Film Festival (Queenstown, New Zealand) www.queenstown.com/mtnfilm
 Oct. 12 – 21: Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival (Arkansas, U.S) www.docufilmint.org
 Oct 19 - 22: World Congress of History Producers (Boston, U.S.), www.banffvfest.com
 Oct.22 – 28: 7e Cinema tout ecran – International film and TV Festival (Geneva, Switzerland), www.cinema-tout-ecran.ch

Oct. 22 – 28: Sheffield International Documentary Festival (Sheffield, U.K.) www.sidf.co.uk
 Oct. 23 – 25: Columbus International Film & Video Festival (Columbus, U.S.) www.chrisawards.com
 Oct 25 – 28: World Congress of Science Producers (Washington, USA) www.banffvfest.com
 Oct 25 –28: United Nations Association Film Festival (Stanford, U.S. www.unaff.org
 Oct 27 -29: DocSide Film Festival (San Antonio, U.S.), www.docfilmproject.org
 Oct. 28-30: Gemini Awards (Toronto, Canada) www.academy.ca

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1 – 11: AFI Fest (Los Angeles, U.S.) www.afifest.com
 Nov. 2-4: Banff Mountain Film Festival (Banff, Canada) www.banffcentre.ab.ca/CMC/
 Nov. 2 – 9: Alliance Atlantis Banff Television Executive Program (Banff, Canada) www.executive2001.com
 Nov. 2 – 10: Margaret mead Film & Video Festival (New York, U.S.) www.amnh.org/mead
 Nov. 14-17: Sportel Monaco (Monte Carlo, Monaco) www.sportel.org
 Nov. 19: International Emmys (New York, USA) www.intlemmyawards.com
 Nov. 21-29: International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (Amsterdam, Netherlands) www.idfa.nl
 Nov. 22 – 27: Festival Du Film Jules Verne (Paris, France)
 Nov. 22 – Dec 2: IDFA (Amsterdam, Netherlands) www.idfa.nl
 Nov. 27-30 Western Cable show (Anaheim, USA) www.cable.com

JANUARY 2002

Jan.15 – 20: 37th Solothurn film Festival (Solothurn, Switzerland), www.solothurnerfilmtage.ch
 Jan.25 – 27: Moondance International Film Festival (Boulder, U.S.) www.moondancefilmfestival.com

SONY®



From August 24 – 28

Next Balkan TV Magazine meeting under the Mount Olympus shadow

For the second, consecutive year, the Balkan Youth Festival organised in the prefecture of Pieria, Greece, and around Mount Olympus, will be the host – along with ERT3 – of the Balkan public TV stations' representatives meeting for the Balkan TV Magazine, one of CIRCOM Regional's oldest and still thriving coproduction projects.

The meeting is to be held at the Poseidon Palace, in Leptokaria, from August 24-27 and representatives from Albania, FYRO Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldavia, Turkey and Greece will gather together.

Each delegate has to present two reports of five minutes about the 'Ecological Initiatives for the Future' and about the 'Summer in a small Village'.

Also, two video clips for two future 'Balkan Video Clip Magazine', another Balkan co-production promoting the area's music.

The schedule of the participants includes visits to archeological sites, such as Dion and Balkan Youth Festival activities, such as the concert of composer Thanos Mikroutsikos at the Platamonas medieval castle.



Whispers

VGTRK, Russia's State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, will feed programming from Euronews beginning in September.... In Western Europe today, 85 million people (or 22%) have access to the Internet, compared with 10% in 1998.... 148 million homes in Western Europe have TV sets, and it is estimated that people watch 3-4 hours television per day....

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Until 2005, 81.200.000 homes will have interactive TV services compared to 80.6 million homes linked to the Internet via computers.... Eleven million homes in Western Europe get a digital TV signal.... In Europe more than eight million households already have access to interactive digital TV, while the number worldwide goes up to 13 million....

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Greece-based TV channel Antenna Television is planning to expand its services at home and overseas. The company is about to issue bonds of \$150m to finance the expansion plans....

Australia's public and commercial broadcasters are to form a strategy group for digital TV...The Portuguese government is to announce rules for the bidding for the country's only DDT network license; it requires an investment of about \$438m. A consortium of the country's three TV channels is favourite for the license....The Cartoon Network will broadcast a 24-hour service throughout India, starting July 1...Greek broadcaster Antenna TV will have exclusive rights to all new Fox feature films for broadcast on free-TV...German public broadcaster ZDF plans to unveil an interactive digital terrestrial service later this year....

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With the deregulation of the telecoms market, media providers have been given a new route into the homes of millions- via telephone lines. Only 254,000 homes worldwide were considered to be DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) entertainment subscribers by the end of 2000- this figure is set to skyrocket to 38 million homes by 2010.... By 2010, 65% of total TV households worldwide will be watching TV via a digital platform....

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CIRCOM Regional is making three proposals for journalism training in 2002: in Kosice (Slovenia), Yugoslavia, Strasbourg. Support is expected from the Council of Europe.... A new meeting of the representatives of the public Balkan TV stations for the Balkan TV Magazine will be held in Leptokaria, Greece, August 24-27. Participating members are from Serbia, Albania, FYRO Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Turkey.... During the meeting in Leptokaria, ERT 3 will sign a protocol agreement for cooperation, coproductions, exchanges, etc. with Teleradio Moldova....

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CNN Headline News has undergone a complete format overhaul for the first time in two decades. With a new set, new graphics, new theme music and new anchors.... The BBC, ITN, Sky and Granada have been ordered to hand over footage of youths taking part in last May Oldham riots so that it could be used by the police to secure convictions.... With web viruses attacking now and then computers, CR members should always be in doubt whether their e-mail messages were actually read....