

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional News monthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • Dec. 2001/No 26



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

Marija Nemcic tenure as CIRCOM General Secretary starts January 1

The CIRCOM Regional European Board unanimously prolonged the mandate of the President, Mr. Lefty Kongalides for one more year, during the CR conference in Kosice, Nov. 22-25. Also Marija Nemcic becomes the new CR General Secretary from Jan. 1. As to the mandates of EC members, Mrs. Lewandowska and Mr. Dijkhuis will hold their terms for an additional year. Mrs. Judit Klein was unanimously confirmed to the vacant EC mandate opening up after the expiring of Mr. Erofeev's term, since Mr. Tim Johnson, the second candidate to the EC, declared himself unable to fulfil the task due to a new situation in Danish broadcasting, which will tie him even stronger to his work during the coming year.

Mr. Roel Dijkhuis was confirmed as the new Internal Auditor after Mr. Mannberg's resignation due to his original work load. The EB agreed that Mrs. Dijkhuis being an EC member for another year will not interfere with his new function.

The EC now consists of:

Mr. Lefty Kongalides, President
Mrs. Marija Nemcic (SG as from January 1, 2002)
Mrs. Marie-Paule Urban (Deputy SG)
Mrs. Elena Spanily
Mrs. Barbara Lewandowska
Mrs. Judit Klein
Mr. Pierre Couchard
Mr. Zoran Medved
Mr. Roel Dijkhuis

Internal Auditors are: Mr. Gerry Reynolds and Mr. Roel Dijkhuis

As regards the Individual Members to the EB there have been changes as well. Mr. Carlo Ranzi has irrevocably stepped down from the EB and as regards Mr. Hassel, he slightly hinted to doing so himself. However, the statutes do provide, yet do not require for up to five Individual Members so a decision to fill the positions may be taken at a later point.

The Individual Members to the European Board currently are:
Mrs. Grethe Haaland, Mr. David Lowen, Mr. Jürgen Hassel, Mr. Peter Zimmermann

**Premis Actual 2001 goes to TF1
entry "The opium of the Talibans"**

The Catalan Broadcasting Corporation (CCRTV) has awarded for one more year Premis Actual 2001.

This year, the International award has been conceded to the French entry: "The opium of the Talibans", by Francois Margolin and Olivier Weber, Margo Films / Odyssee, broadcast by TF1, France.0

The international jury makes a special mention of "Black September in East Timor" by NHK, a report based on the exceptional work of Agus Muliawan, a 26 years old Indonesian reporter, murdered by pro-Indonesian militia in September 1999. The report's main footage has been shot by Agus

Muliawan days before this death, while covering the violent end of Indonesian occupation in East Timor.

The International jury, chaired by Mr. Pedro Erquicia, Director of Current Affairs and Investigative Programmes, TVE, has pointed out the high quality of the reports submitted.

CR programs on EbS

CIRCOM Regional programs on Europe by Satellite till the end of December are as follows:

- ❖ "Swiss world" (RTSI Lugano)
- ❖ "European Year of Languages" (RTV Slovenia).

Both programs will be broadcast on Dec. 19 (22.00 CET), Dec. 20 (5.30 CET), Dec. 22 (11.00 CET)

- ❖ "Christmas in Europe" (BR Munich)

The program will be broadcast on Dec. 26 (22.00 CET), Dec. 27 (5.30 CET), Dec. 29 (11.00 CET).

For a prosperous and united Europe

The perspectives of the cooperation between public broadcasters in the BSEC member states

ATHENS -

In 1992, in Istanbul, the representatives of 11 States of the region of the Black Sea gave birth to the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). By a common declaration, the representatives of the above States have recognized that "a prosperous and united Europe will evolve on shared values such as democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, prosperity through economic liberty and social justice and equal security for all countries with the aim to ensure that the Black Sea becomes a sea of peace, stability and prosperity, striving to promote friendly and good – neighborly relations".

In the same declaration the 11 States have been determined "to make best use of all possibilities and opportunities for expanding and multiplying their cooperation in the fields of economics, including trade and industrial cooperation, of science and technology...and to take from now on concrete steps, in this process by identifying, developing and carrying out, with the participation of their competent organizations, enterprises and firms, projects of common interest" in many areas, including the area of communication. This is the moral and political framework of the activities to be undertaken by the Public Service Broadcasters (radio and television) in the region of the Black Sea.

The choice of an organization model

Although it is very early to decide on the adoption of a concrete organization model for the cooperation of the Public Broadcasters of the BSEC Member States, there are two models that we believe we should exclude (at least for the time being): The first is the model of concrete legal entity (civil society, association etc), functioning on the base of a concrete legal structure with vigorous and detailed rules.

The second is the idea of continuing holding a meeting every year in different countries, where the most of the time will be devoted to present (and re-present) our organisations (by the assistance of video-clips on different issues and initiatives) and to underline (between numerous coffee-breaks) how much important is the cooperation between us. Usually, those meetings differ from one to another when, at the end, a decision is taken on the site of the next meeting. Our initiative must exploit, to the best possible level, the excellent climate which already exists in our bilateral or / and multilateral relations and try to build progressively an organizational framework not only to guarantee its continuation but also to give it a concrete role and mission, taking into account the rapidly changing landscape in the broadcasting area. This approach means that our initiative must be governed by a certain number of general principles which will safeguard its existence and its success. The Coordinating Group must elaborate those general principles to be proposed in the Conference to be held in Greece early next summer. A first general principle that must govern our activities is the principle of consensus. Consensus is the leading principle in broadening the area of the activities of our cooperation, in deciding on the participation of new public broadcasting organizations in the area, in creating of organs and structures and in generally in all those issues

which may imply serious commitments in a country level.

If our cooperation and our working methods give good results in the beginning of our initiative, then a more rigorous structure could replace this supple and flexible way of working. Then a necessity for adopting rules related to the decision making process will come automatically. But again, special attention must be paid as to the exact rhythm needed and the accelerating procedure. There are two instruments that can be used as a reference to that delicate issue of a future structure: 1) the Rules of Procedure of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (which a revised and updated text has been approved in Istanbul in October 1997, the provisions voted in Yalta on June 1998 And the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC of St. Petersburg in December 1998) 2) the Statutes of the European Broadcasting Union (E.B.U.), in which all the public service broadcasting organizations of the BSEC countries (with the exception of Georgia) are members. This last can be used in case that the orientation of our cooperation needs to endorse an organization schema of a professional association. Independently on when or how a development of our cooperation will sooner or later be implemented, there are, however, certain ideas that could be applied in the first steps of our initiative, just to show the particular dimension of our cooperation far (very far) from the first model already described (and to be avoided), namely holding meetings once a year in a different country each time with agendas full with general proposals and consequently out of any concrete project. These ideas and thoughts on how to work in this transitional period, while searching for a model (ideal or simply practical) of a permanent structure, should not exclude the following concrete steps to be taken immediately:

- On the role of the Coordinating Group

We consider the role of the Coordinating Group as of a great importance for the organization not only of the next Conference but also of the activities of our organization until the next Conference in June 2002. Our aim is that the next Conference will be a fruit of a collective effort, which is the effort of the Coordination Group.

- On the promotion of concrete projects of mutual cooperation

With the contribution of the Coordinating Group different projects of mutual cooperation can be take place until next June.

- On the support of common ideas within existing bodies

With the coordination of the Coordinating Group thoughts and ideas can be exchanged in the direction of implementing common strategies. An example of a similar task would be the proceedings of the modification of the EBU Statutes.

- On the cooperation in different areas of activities

Organization of different committees in the legal and technical field and in the area of radio and television

VASILIS COSTOPOULOS
ERT Legal Dept.

The European Ethnic Broadcasting Association (EEBA) more active in '02

With the support of the Austrian Broadcasting ORF, the European Ethnic Broadcasting Association uniting small nations and ethnic groups will be able to consolidate its activity in the following years. The EEBA and Circom Regional will jointly launch a TV series with the title "The Roots". The series will bring endangered regional cultures, languages and people closer to the European audience. The first stage of the project to be implemented in 2002 will focus on small nations and ethnic groups in South-eastern Europe. The second stage of the project, a documentation bundle on ethnic minorities in Central and Eastern Europe is already in its planning stage. The final cluster of the project will study the national groups of Western Europe.

It should be pointed out that this ambitious project is breaking new ground, since Europe has not seen a complete display of its cultural, partly heavily endangered, heritage so far. This will be a step away from the McDonaldisation of European TV programmes.

The administrative centre of the EEBA will be as from now on be professionally run by its president, CR colleague Mr. Mirko Bogataj (until recently the head of Slovenian programming of the ORF) and will be located at the Ossiach Lake in Carinthia, the juncture of three European cultures. The seat of the EEBA used to be in Villach, Europastr. 4 before. Within the following year, the EEBA will focus especially on:

- A congress on minimum standards for ethnic minority broadcasting
- And after the assembly of Slavonic journalists, it will organise a meeting of the German – speaking journalists of Europe.

The EEBA is among others co-organizing the international At Home festival in Krakow (TVP), which has reached a considerable level of quality. For the last two years, the preselection

did not consider original contributions of minority journalists anymore. As from next year, the EEBA will organize an additional forum aimed for minority journalists only; it is intended to become a platform for presenting and discussing their work, which they usually have to carry out in rather demanding circumstances.

In co-operation with Circom Regional, the EEBA will next year present modern technical, yet affordable equipment for European minority editorial boards, which in some places still work on completely outdated systems (U-Matic).

Parallel to the above listed activities, a training centre for young broadcasting journalists will be established in Austria. The tutors and trainers of this centre will be acknowledged colleagues from all over the world, who will train their younger colleagues to perform their work in accordance with high professional standards and will raise the awareness of the majority colleagues for the special features of ethnic broadcasting, which is the key to peace and understanding in Europe of the 3rd millennium.

National broadcasters of Yugoslavia, FYRO Macedonia, Slovenia, Hungary and Norway have so far signed the European Media Charter on national partnership.

Forum for Dialogue in Copenhagen

The Baltic Media Centre holds the Forum for Dialogue at Schafergaarden in Copenhagen, Dec. 14-15.

The Forum for Dialogue is initiated on the request from two networks of respectively private (South East European Network of Associations of Private Broadcasters-SEENAPB) and Public Broadcasters (See Network of Public Broadcasters) in the region to further development of well functioning democratic media in South East Europe. The aim is to facilitate dialogue between private and public media, regulatory bodies and politicians in region focusing on the most pressing topics for electronic broadcasting within the media policy area. The format will be of short introduction followed by substantial debate. Each discussion item will after a short introduction be followed by substantial debate. The conference seeks to highlight the necessity of constant dialogue between the different "players". The conference furthermore seeks to act as an exchange – point of experiences from the different countries in the region. The conference also seeks to follow the media policy developments in the region over the last year, and see how things have developed since the last forum in 2001. The issues this year focus on media responsibility.

- How do you ensure fair coverage of political events. How does one ensure that fair coverage is made in an environment where almost all media supports political views of their own.
- Who guaranties the Freedom of the Media. What is the responsibility of The Politicians, The Editors, The Regulators, etc.

Separate meetings will be organised as well as a visit to the festive Christmas Market at The Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. The Forum is made possible through contributions from The Council of Europe within the Framework of Stability Pact and The SEE-Network Support of The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Peace and Stability Programme – FRESTA.

Twelve different options for EbS

Europe by Satellite (EbS), the European Union satellite program, broadcast by Eutelsat Hot Bird (13o East, Dounlink 12.47550 GHz, Horizontal Polarization) has a number of sound options: The international sound (PID 201) and translations in English (PID 202), French (PID 203), German (PID 204), Italian (PID 205), Spanish (PID 206), Greek (PID 207), Portugese (PID 208), Dutch (PID 209), Danish (PID 210), Finnish (PID 211), Swedish (PID 212).

More technical information on EbS:
Beam: wide, Mode: MPEG-2 MP@ML
Symbol Rate: 27500 Sym/sec, Forward Error Correction:3/4, Video Program Identification:101

Europe by Satellite is part of Belgacom Network Bouquet at Eutelsat Hot Bird.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation conference next June in Greece

The Coordination Group of the Public Broadcasters of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation member states held a meeting in Athens, Nov. 18-20.

Present were from Romania Violeta Oltean, Director of Int'l Relations, TVR, from Turkey Alev Bilingen, Director of Int'l Relations, TRT, and Sendar San, Int'l Relations TRT, from Ukraine Tatyana Novoseletskaia, Head of Int'l Cooperation and Olena Paytyna, Int'l Cooperation, both from the National TV Company of Ukraine, from Greece, Vassilis Costopoulos, Director of Legal Dept, Fotini Yiannoulaitou, Director of Int'l Relations, Lena Hoida, Head of Coproductions Dept. and Vassilis Bitsis, Editor in Chief, all from ERT. Also present was CIRCOM Regional President Lefty Kongalides.

Next year (mid June) in Greece a conference of the BSEC will take place. The site of the conference will be in Chalkidiki, with ERT and ERT3 acting as hosts. This year's conference was held in Bucharest, Romania, with TVR hosting the event.

In Kosice, Slovakia

A warm farewell with lots of presents to Boris Bergant



The meeting of the CR Executive Committee and European Board at the Interhotel Slovan in Kosice, Slovakia, Nov. 22-25, turned – and quite nightly so- after the working hours as a tribute to CR outgoing General Secretary Boris Bergant.

With money contributed from all EC and EB members a digital camera was handed to Boris by CR Deputy General Secretary Marie-Paule Urban and other personal presents from everyone in attendance, during a farewell dinner.

CR President L. Kongalides underlined in a short speech: “So yesterday was supposed to be Thanksgiving Day. Right? Wrong. Through my secret and personal contacts I managed to postpone Thanksgiving for today – so that we can all express our thanks to Boris for his longstanding services to Circom Regional. There are hardly any words to describe our feelings for Boris. For his hard work, his professionalism, his dedication to CR. A “thank you” is not enough compared to what he has done for our organisation. And at this point I cannot forget also his wonderful team – present here tonight are Carmen and Marianna. Many thanks go also to them – all of them, as well”.

And Kongalides shaking hands and with a hug to Boris concluded: “As a last reminder: Boris, there will always be an open invitation for you, for all our conferences, seminars, celebrations and events. Please accept it”.

During the last night’s buffet-dinner, at the Centrum Hotel, CR President thanked Marian Kleis, CR vice president, for the fine preparation for the meeting and handed little presents to him and his team Ian Dianiska, Alexandra Fedelesova, Yana Koncekova and Yana Filova.



At the invitation of France 3 and France 3 Alsace

Strasbourg seminar with 14 participants

Fourteen participants from Eastern, Central and Western Europe were the representatives of TV stations at the Second European CR Seminar on Newsroom Management in Strasbourg, Nov. 12-17

The participants, invited by the Directions of France 3 and France 3 Alsace, were hosted by Marie-Paule Urban, CR Deputy Secretary General with the help of Brigitte Waltsburger.

On the list of participants were:

- Michaela Bergholz, Hessischer Rundfunk, Francfort, Allemagne
- Dominique d' Olne, RTBF, Bruxelles, Belgium
- Konstantin Kissimov, Télévision Nationale Bulgare, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Branka Slavica, HRT, Zagreb, Croatia
- Alain Fontan-Moret, France 3 Rhone-Alpes Auvergne, Lyon, France
- Dimitris Athanasopoulos, ERT3, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Barna Fabian, MTV, Budapest, Hungari
- Lidija Bogatinova, Macedonian Television, Skopje, FYROM
- Inger Johanne Solli, NRK Oppland, Lillehammer, Norway
- Pawel Pacut, Telewizja Polska S.A., Cracovie, Poland
- Mariusz Srokol, Telewizja Polska S.A., Cracovia, Poland
- Simona Teodora Carlugea, TVR Craiova, Craiova, Roumania
- Stela Jovanovic, NTV, Nis, Serbia
- Peter Zemanik, Slovenska Televizia, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia
- Goos De Boer, RTV Noord, Groningen, Netherlands, had to

cancel his participation two days before the start of the seminar. Fahrudin Becic from Bosnia / Herzegovina was replaced by a second colleague from Poland.

This year, the crossview points, exchange of experiences, programme analysis, digital shooting and editing, the way to built a story were extremely useful.

Five European experts were the tutors:

- Rick Thompson, CR Coordinator Training & Development
- Carol Cioma, Senior Cameraman, producer
- Hans Jessen, Correspondant TV ARD Berlin, German
- Didier Desormeaux, Responsable for the Journalists Training,
- Gérard Le Couedic, Responsable for training the picture-editors, France 3

Interventions during the seminar were from:

- -Gérard Scheer, Director France 3 Alsace,
- -Jean-Marie Belin, Director International Cooperation and External Affairs

On Nov. 14 it was a day at the European Parliament during the session, invited by Jean-Charles Pierron, Director, Audiovisual Division & Kirsten Tingsted Andersen in charge of the Relations with the TV channels, CR coordinator:

- On Nov. 17 interventions were from:
- Roel Dijkhuis, Director RTV Noord, Groningen, President of CR's
- Marc Lesort, Coordination Director, France 3
- Jean-Luc Belguise, Deputy

Director, France 3 Alsace

A feedback form on the effectiveness and organisation of the seminar was distributed to all the participants. This evaluation form remained anonymous to allow participants to be totally honest.

Appréciation of the seminar: 66/70 points

Organisation and welcome: 69/70 points

Pedagogical quality of the tutors : 60/70 points

Balance between practical theoretical work: 56/70 points

Indication of satisfaction :62,5/70 points, 89,2 % in 2001 (87,96 % in 2000).

In one sentence what would be your message to your TV station ?

"I felt, for 7 days, as a part of the European TV World. Let's be Europe!"

"We need more training to be good and we need to be in touch with the modern technologies

-General comments and suggestio the future:

"Unique moment in my career"

"it's very good that the teachers come from different parts of Europe with different traditions"

"multiskilling is our future, we must get ready", "the balance should be more on practical work in a newsroom, the timetable was very tense and a bit exhausting, nevertheless excellent"

The spirit of CIRCUM Regional was there!

Marie-Paule Urban





Serbian VP Zarko Korac hosts Balkan TV directors

The Balkan public radio & TV stations general directors held their annual meeting at the invitation of Serbia's RTS in Belgrade, Dec. 6-9.

The agenda of the meeting included bilateral or multilateral agreements in the Balkans (the past, the present, the future – examples of success or failure); Balkanet: exchange of news around the clock, exchange of Balkan snapshots; the role of the public TV stations, the political situation in the Balkans; Future cooperation, the positive role of the public TV stations during the complex situation in the Balkans.

During their stay the delegations representing Albania, Serbia, FYRO Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey visited the half mined (from the recent war) headquarters of RTS, the Art Museum (for an exhibition of Pirot's carpets) and had a sightseeing tour in Belgrade.

Highlight of the meeting was a dinner hosted by Zarko Korac, vice president of the Government of Serbia and RTS General Manager Aleksandar Crkvenjakov. Main sponsor was the "Intermezzo" group of companies, who offered meals at the "Sova" restaurant, at the "Disalog" boat restaurant and a farewell dinner for the participants and their ambassadors in Serbia at the Kalemeganska Terasa restaurant.

In Algiers, May 8-11

The 9th Conference and General Assembly of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators

The last General Assembly of Co.Pe.A.M. (that took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, on March 28-31, 2001) accepted unanimously the offer of the Algerian Television ENTV to hold the next Conference in Algeria. So, the IXth Conference and the General Assembly will take place in Algiers, from 8 to 11 of May, 2002. The theme of this meeting will be: "Media in the Mediterranean, The Peace and Dialogue Carrier: Training-Informing-Exchanging"

This theme, chosen well in advance by the Bureau of our Association, acquired a capital importance after the tragic events of New York. The theme is also based on one of the articles of Co.Pe.A.M. statutes: "Make the Mediterranean a forum for cultural exchange, economic cooperation, mutual understanding and acceptance among peoples with different ethnic, political and religious backgrounds".

The ENTV will take care of the logistics and event planning of the initiative in co-operation with the Abassa Institut. As far as the importance of this event is concerned, the Algerian Public Television ENTV and the Algerian Government will take care with particular attention to all the aspects of this conference, offering all the guarantees for its successful running.

The Co.Pe.A.M. website (<http://www.copeam.org>) will soon have a page for this IXth Conference and will give a monthly updated information.

Circom Report

The 'CIRCUM Report' is a monthly publication of CIRCUM Regional, the European Association of Public Regional TV Stations-available on the CR Internet site and coming to CR member stations and personnel either through E-mail or as an A4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Ljubljana. The French version of the CIRCUM Report is conceived and published by the Strasbourg Secretariat with support from the Region Alsace, the Conseil General du Bas-Rhin and the City of Strasbourg.

The "CIRCUM Report" is planned and edited in ERT3, Thessaloniki, Greece.

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All member stations are considered as potential contributors for this publication, with stories about new and innovative ideas, co-productions, exchanges, modern technologies, etc. Especially welcome are short stories and one-liners.

***Sony and Eutelsat are the official CIRCUM Regional sponsors**



Whispers

More than 300 programs are added every year in the video library of CIRCUM Regional, which has now moved to Zagreb, site of the new CR General Secretariat. Already 1175 programs are available.... The 2002 CIRCUM Regional conference will be the 20th anniversary of the event.... All CR member stations can get the Balkan TV Magazine through EbS, while it is broadcast, and add it to their programs free of charge.... TVR, Romanian Television, has set up a project for a program about Orthodoxy. A TV crew led by producer in the sacred monuments in Peloponnese....

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SEEMO a South East Europe Media Organisation, made up of a network of editors, media executives and leading journalists in Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria,

Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Greece, FYRO Macedonia, Moldova and Romania....Carlo Ranzi, former CR President has resigned definitely from the position of Individual Member. In a written message he wishes "every one a bright future"....Karol Cioma has left the BBC staff to set up his own production and training company, called K Productions....

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110 journalists, students and senior editors have benefited from CR workshops and seminars in 2001.... The second South-East Europe TV Journalism Workshop in Budva will take place next March.... The European Forum of Citizens Advice Services was held at the faculties Universitaires Saint-Louis in Brussels....