

# THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR ENLARGEMENT

## PROGRESS REPORT # 22 [December 2003]

The European Commission published in March 2002 its first report on the implementation of the communication strategy for Enlargement, covering the period since the launch of the strategy in May 2000. The following is an update of that report. It lists the various activities carried out as part of the communication strategy for enlargement in the candidate countries and member states, and provides background material, such as opinion polls. For more information on the situation of public opinion, please see the section on the enlargement web site at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/opinion/>

For more information on the activities of the Commission delegations and Representations, see [http:// europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/contacts/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/contacts/index.htm)

The DG Enlargement Information Team

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## **THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY ON ENLARGEMENT BY COUNTRY**

### **Austria**

#### *The communication environment*

- On the 3rd of December, Johann Driemer, Vice-President of the Austrian Trade Union Federation denounced the Austrian government for not having done enough for preparing Austria for the Accession of another 10 New Member States. On the 6th of December Hubert Gorbach, Austrian Vice-Chancellor and minister of transport, announced Vis a Vis the European Council and Commission that he would not accept the Transit-Succession Regulation for Austria.
- On the 11th, in Carinthia, Gorbach once more voiced his opinion that EU-Enlargement would mean a loss in life-quality for the Austrian people at large through a rise in the transit of cheap goods, primarily from the Balkans (such as Slovenia, but also Croatia and FYROM). Nearly simultaneously, Barbara Rosenkranz, Speaker for the Rights of Displaced Persons of the Freedom Party of Austria (junior partner of the ruling coalition), reminded in a speech in the Austrian parliamentary plenary session that the “Benés Decrees are still living injustice”. The Czech Republic was still in contravention to the political Criteria of Copenhagen and by admitting the country under current conditions to enter the EU, the EU was reducing to nil its own rules of the game.

#### *Information activities*

- The Representation was involved in the implementation of a seminar on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2003, mainly organised by DG SANCO on the enforcement of Consumer Policies in accession countries.
- The Green International Conference that convened in Vienna early December 2003 hosted participants from 33 nations and 119 cities. Its achievement was the decision to start a “Joint Venture” between Eastern and Western European sister parties, thereby opening the way to a future united European Green Party. Key to the future in an enlarged Europe lay, such was the final finding of the participants, in communal and urban, transnational/crossborder co-operations between currently nationally organised political parties.
- The Representation is currently co-ordinating the activities of GOs/NGOs within Austria and simultaneously looking for ways to interconnect borderline/crossborder activities of Medium/Large cities in the neighbouring New Member States. Both processes are ongoing.

#### *Publications*

- The Representation published the results from its last dialogue event with Latvia on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### *Internet*

- Bernhard Kuhr of the Vienna Representation successfully established CIRCA on the Europe Server as an interactive Internet platform, currently for the co-ordination of all 1<sup>st</sup> of May Enlargement/Accession related matters.
- The Representation has published the Accession Treaty on its Website, as well as the Enlargement Report by the Wim Kok-Commission and a Compendium of the Results of the Accession Negotiations.

## **Bulgaria**

### *The communication environment*

- The communication environment for the month of December 2003 may be characterised by a flow of analyses and commentaries covering a wide range of topical issues. The main issues are Bulgaria's EU accession progress, the closure of units three and four of the Kozloduy NPP, 1 January 2007 set as accession date for Bulgaria and Romania, failure to agree on the draft European constitution, and the euro rate and consequences for the EU economy.

### *Research and measurement*

- Pursuant to the findings of a 2003 December survey, conducted by Gallup International among 1011 persons, aged 18+, the end of 2003 shows that the majority of Bulgarian citizens (83%) demonstrate a positive attitude towards the future integration of Bulgaria in the EU. Besides the prevailing positive consensus, there are 12% of citizens expressing a negative attitude, and 5% who have no particular opinion on the matter. A high level of correlation has been registered between the citizens' approval of Bulgaria joining the EU and their personal conviction that it is important for the country to become a full member of the Union.
- By December 2003, the most frequently cited and expected benefits from the future membership of the country in the EU are the higher living standards (21%), greater economic stability (14%), more foreign investment (12%), economic upsurge (9%), employment opportunities in the EU member states (8%), and access to larger markets (7%). The positive expectations of Bulgarian citizens towards EU membership are predominantly of socio-economic nature, and they could be summarised in the formula: "economic prosperity and increased standard of living".
- 66% of the interviewed Bulgarians think that the EU membership of the country will give rise to social challenges, some of which are considered as "threats". The prevailing fears associated with EU membership may be generalised as "serious problems for the Bulgarian producers". Irrespective of how they express their concerns, almost 21% of the respondents are worried that EU accession is a threat for the local business and economy. Closely connected with this concern is the

fear of “loosing jobs”, declared by 5% of the respondents. Other fears could be summarised as “loss of national control over national resources”.

### *Media*

- Similar to November 2003, in December 2003 the Bulgarian press demonstrated a strong interest in EU-Bulgaria relations. A detailed content analysis pertaining to the relations between Bulgaria and the EU, as well as to the coverage of the EU pre-accession programmes in December shows that the Bulgarian press covered thoroughly all major events concerning the process of Bulgaria's accession to the EU and the activities of the EU institutions.
- Leading news items in the Bulgarian media were: Bulgaria's progress on the road to EU accession; EU summit in Brussels sets 1 Jan. 2007 as accession date for Bulgaria and Romania, if by this date the two countries fulfil the membership criteria; Failure to agree on a draft European constitution; The Euro posts a series of historical highs to the U.S. dollar; business and analysts fear from possible adverse effects on the recovery of the EU economy; and EU financial aid.
- 98.9 % of the press articles relating to the EU in December 2003 show neutral attitude towards the Union. Out of 569 EU-related articles in the period, 563 are neutral, five – negative, and one - positive.
- The large percentage of neutral articles is due to the informative rather than analytical character of the texts. For the period under consideration there is a total of five articles with negative attitude to the EU, which makes 0.87% of the total amount. All of these stories are related to the unit closures in the Kozloduy power plant. The articles were published in the Trud Daily, Zemya Daily, Monitor Daily and Sega Daily.

### *Press Releases*

- Press release on the press conference of 15 December on the PHARE funded project for improvement of administrative justice in view of the fight against corruption at the Supreme Administrative Court
- Speech by Romano Prodi, titled “Europe with passion and conviction”, European Parliament, 16 December 2003
- Joint Memorandum for Social Inclusion between European Commission and EU accession countries' ministers

### *Interviews*

- The HoD has given one interview for the Nedelia 150 Horizont Programme of the National Bulgarian Radio.

### *Information activities*

- December 2, Group visit and lecture: Students from high school with English language teaching visited the IC for a lecture delivered by the director and a documentary on European integration history.
- December 4, Discussion on the conclusions about child protection level, in the Regular Report on Bulgaria's progress towards accession. Representatives of the State Agency for Child Protection discussed future plans with their partners for improving the level of protection.
- December 5, Training on project implementation for representatives of organisations working in the framework of projects funded under the Europa 2002 programme.
- December 8, Group visit by trainees at the Institute for Public Administration and European Integration (IPAIEI), at which the IC activities were presented.
- December 10, Donor Co-ordination Working Group meeting in the area of Living Standards Improvements, Poverty and Social sector Final Agenda, organised by the British Embassy with participation of representatives of the EC Delegation and embassies of EU Member States.
- December 11, Book presentation: a study on the process of harmonisation of Bulgarian law with the EU acquis "Approximation of Bulgarian Legislation with the Acquis Communautaire" was presented by its author.
- December 12, Seminar and lecture: An international group of students visited the IC for the first lecture in the framework of the seminar "Let's open the door to the European Constitution", organised by the European Youth Movement.
- December 12, Book presentation: "Minorities and Policing – the Inevitable Shift" – a publication, of the Assistance Centre for Torture Survivors ACET, meant to be used in training seminars on human rights for police officers.
- December 15, Group visit: students from the village of Lozen visited the IC for a presentation of the latest developments of the EU. They also saw a documentary on EU institutions.
- December 17, A happening organised by the National Association of Bulgarian European Clubs (NABEC). Students from the clubs presented European Christmas customs and traditions.
- December 17, Public discussion: "The Image of Bulgaria in Europe" under the Government EU Communication Strategy. PR specialists, journalists and citizens took part in the discussion.
- December 18, Twinning selection
- December 22, Awarding ceremony organised by the Eurointegration Association, at which people with special achievements, during the year in the field of European integration of Bulgaria were

### *Internet*

- A total of 9 132 users visited the website in December 2003. The total average of users per day in December 2003 is 294.
- The web statistics show that [www.dir.bg](http://www.dir.bg), [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), and [www.dnevnik.bg](http://www.dnevnik.bg) represent three of the most popular referrers, i.e. the websites from which the [www.evropa.bg](http://www.evropa.bg) visitors come from.
- The [www.evropa.bg](http://www.evropa.bg) news alert subscription continues to attract an increasing number of subscribers from various target groups. Compared to the 1743 news subscribers as of 30 November 2003, their number has risen to a total of 1829 by the end of December.
- During the period 1 December - 31 December 2003 the daily update of the EC Delegation's website comprised of a total of 78 documents in both Bulgarian and English.
- The topics of the news items published on [www.evropa.bg](http://www.evropa.bg) for the above-mentioned period are mainly related to major EU events, EU policies, documents with a bearing on EU accession, and other practical issues, being of interest to a variety of target groups in Bulgaria.
- Two EU-related events involving the attendance of officials from the Delegation of the European Commission to Bulgaria were covered on [www.evropa.bg](http://www.evropa.bg): 1) Participation of Christof Stock in the Press conference on the PHARE funded project for improvement of administrative justice in view of the fight against corruption; 2) Joint press conference of the Director General for Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission, Odile Quintin, and Minister of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria, Hristina Hristova.
- Other news highlights: European Year of Education through Sport 2004; Outcome of Agriculture/Fisheries Council of December 2003; Commission to sign key social inclusion agreements with accession countries; Romano Prodi President of the European Commission, Europe with passion and conviction, European Parliament, Strasbourg; Commission calls on Member States to keep up the momentum in tackling poverty and social exclusion; European Day of People with Disabilities.

### *Products*

- The production of the EC Delegation's newsletter "Evropanorama" has been restarted. Leading theme of the new issue was the EU constitution.

### *Information Centre*

- During the month of December the number of visitors was on average 35 per day. The most FAQs were on the latest developments at the IGC and the future of the Draft Constitutional Treaty. Topics of great interest also were the activities of DG Interpretation and the possibilities for Bulgarians to apply for open positions in this DG.

- The Catalogue system served around 8300 page requests, some 2000 of them made through the Internet site. This month shows particularly high utilisation of the system through the visitor's workplaces in the IC premises. On the whole, more than 620 detailed information material queries were made.
- The Europa server leads with around 5400 page requests, followed by the EC Delegation in Bulgaria web site with around 2000 requests.

#### *Distribution of free information materials*

- At the IC premises: the total number of EU information materials from the IC shelves distributed during the period is 1196 excluding the number of items ordered by organisations, citizens and the online distribution service.
- Upon special request - to organisations, such as NGOs, media, public administration, libraries, high schools, local authorities, and citizens – 74 packages.
- By online ordering service: 16 packages.
- The latest publications printed in Bulgarian with the financial support of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bulgaria: "What Can the Enterprises Expect in the Enlarged EU", "How the European Union works – a citizen's guide to the EU institutions" and "How the European Commission works" continued to be special highlights in the month of December. A large number of copies of these brochures were distributed to the regional points of the Agency for Small and Medium-sized enterprises, the European Documentation Centre at the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" and other partner organisations.

#### *Co-operations and partnerships*

- The IC director participated as a lecturer in the seminar "Let's open the door to the European Constitution", organised by the European Youth Movement. She delivered the opening lecture and presented the latest developments at the IGC from twenty-one different European countries to the participants.
- The co-operation with the IPAE, Eurointegration Association, Ministry of Education and Science and NABEC developed further. New publications were exchanged and ideas for joint activities in the future were agreed. IC's publications "European Programmes Guide" and "Europe on the Internet" were donated to the PAIDEA Foundation for the purposes of their "European lessons" project. IC supported the Municipality of Gabrovo with a big amount of key publications on the occasion of the presentation of the Regular Report 2003 on Bulgaria's progress towards accession. A great number of maps "The EU – Member states and Candidate countries" were delivered to the National Assembly for the needs of the Members of Parliament.

## **Czech Republic**

### *The communication environment*

- Of the 9 monitored and most popular media (print, TV, Radio), totalling a print readership of 2 508 746 (approximately 25% of population), the left of centre newspaper “Pravo” once again led all other publications in terms of number of EU related articles.
- Of the seven most monitored topics (IGC, Single Currency, Visegrad Four, Legislation, Benes Decrees, European Parliament and illegal export of Weapons), the IGC was the most reported topic with 170 reports. With the collapse of the EU constitution talks, this topic took the lead in the Czech media in December. The IGC was covered in 41% of the monitored articles, and the European Parliament and Legislation was reported in 28% and 26% of the articles respectively.
- Following the IGC, Legislation and EP, which made up 95% of the EU related press, only the Benes Decrees were covered in publications such as Lidove noviny and Czech TV.
- The visit of Commissioners Verheugen and Wallström received wide coverage. However, the media predominantly followed the program of Commissioner Verheugen and did not pay equal attention to Commissioner Wallström engagements, which reflects the fact that only a few members of the European Commission are known to the general public. On December 14 both Commissioners appeared live in a Czech TV program focusing on current international affairs and they communicated their messages also covering the failure of the IGC in Brussels the day before. In addition Commissioner Verheugen gave an interview to Mlada fronta daily and Commissioner Wallström spoke to Lidove noviny daily.

### *Public opinion*

- 68% of the population anticipate that the EU entry will cause a partial lose of national sovereignty according to a poll by the Centre for Public Opinion Research, while 65% fear the migration of the population after EU entry and 60% of the respondents believe that the Czech economy will have difficulties in the EU. One third pointed out to the improving of their living standards. People also expect the media to provide information on the EU. More than 80% named the media among the three most important sources of information, followed by the Government (71%) and research and education institutions (45%).
- The Czech public is expecting further deterioration in the social-economical field. The only exception in the areas monitored by the CVMM research is salaries, considered often by people to rise (35%) than to decrease (11%) after accession to the EU. The most frequent opinion about salaries is that they will not change (43%) after accession. Expectations of price increases are explicitly dominating in area of food (82%), energy (74%), land prices (71%) or public transport (60%).

### *Media*

- December 14-15, 2003 - In mid December, Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Commissioner Margot Wallström visited the Czech Republic. Both Commissioners went to see the city of Terezín, where a new project for the development of a new university town was introduced. Together with PM Spidla Mr. Verheugen also took part in the Pilsen highway bypass opening ceremony. The Czech government organised press points on the occasion of the visit.

#### *Press releases*

- December 1, 2003 – ISPA project “Bridge No. 20-073 Protivin – Mysenec” was completed. The press release was sent to 135 journalists, DEC representatives and embassies.
- December 8, 2003 – Phare twinning project "Electricity Market Operator" was completed. The press release was sent to 114 journalists, DEC representatives and embassies.
- December 9, 2003 - EPSO recruitment of permanent officials for the EU institutions taking place in Prague and Brno. The press release was sent to 141 journalists, DEC representatives and embassies.
- December 11, 2003 - Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Environmental Commissioner Margot Wallstroem visiting the CR. The press release was sent to 221 journalists, DEC representatives and embassies.
- December 12, 2003 – Change of the program of G. Verheugen and M. Wallström visiting the CR was announced. The press release was sent to 221 journalists, DEC representatives and embassies.

#### *Publications*

- Number of mailed publications: 112 requests for publications were processed
- The second issue of the EU Magazine (DEC’s Newsletter) was issued on December the 15<sup>th</sup> and distributed to the usual target groups, with heavy focus on public administration bodies. The issue covered all the relevant European topics for the months of November and December, including a guest commentary on the IGC and the Constitution by Martin Komarek, one of the country’s top commentators.

#### *Conferences/Seminars*

- The DEC has approved funding for an April 20, 2004 Conference on EU Law.
- After a working lunch, with the City Mayor and his Deputy, Mr. Dreyer attended the Euroregio Conference celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Sumava Euro Region Foundation. This conference was attended by over 100 participants from Bavaria, Upper-Austria and South Bohemia.
- Following an invitation from the Mayor of Cesky Krumlov, the Head of Delegation Ralf Dreyer visited the city of Cesky Krumlov on December 4th. As

in previous regional visits, the day started with a breakfast, attended by Cesky Krumlov Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as representatives of the Roma business community, a structural fund officer and 30 secondary school students. Issues discussed ranged from a general EU enlargement debate as well as expected changes in addition to Roma business activities and societal standing. The next meeting was a one on one interview between Ralf Dreyer and journalist Jan Olsakovsky from the Ceskokrumlovske listy (local publication, readership 7500). The topics discussed were Czech farmers in the EU, the preparedness of Czech administration and veterinary legislation in the EU and CR. The article appeared in the press on December 5<sup>th</sup> .

#### *Partnerships & networks*

- The contractor liaised with the organisers of “Days of European Film”, which will take place in March 2004. All contracts and communication related to this partnership will be completed by early January 2004.
- In December, the DEC agreed to fund a radio program which aims to increase public knowledge of the EU, it will be similar to the radio programme financed during the period prior to the referendum which had proved successful. .
- The DEC will support a school trip of Austrian and Czech students to Brussels.

#### *Information Centre*

- Number of visitors in the EUIC during December 2003: 1 629
- The EUIC reports an increase of request for specific information, the main topics being: free movement of persons/ employees and goods; tax issues. Questions about the IGC and Draft constitution are slowly becoming an issue.
- Almost all of the EUIC exhibitions were lent to various regions in CR. Ongoing preparation of a new panel exhibition on EU-funded projects realised in the Euroregions in co-operation with several Euroregions.
- In total 8 lectures about the “EU and its enlargement” were provided by the EUIC during the month of December.
- 4 December – Lecture on Czech judiciary after the accession to the EU given by Jan Passer, 75 attendees.
- 11 December – Lecture on EU funds for the area of environment and energy given by Jan Srb, 80 attendees.
- 18 December – Lecture on European Constitution and Rome Intergovernmental Conference given by Josef Zieleniec, 65 attendees.

#### *Delegation's web page*

- 37 742 visitors to the webpage during December. In addition to that, 4 721 visitors visited eu.tiscali.cz web page displaying some of the DEC web page content. The total number of visitors to the DEC web page in December amounts to 42 463
- Besides the regular updates, the EU Policies section has been revised and around 10 new articles have been written and added to it. Programming work on the new design continued as well as the programming and filling of the database of EU financial support to the Czech Republic.

#### *Team Europe*

- 7 Team Europe lectures provided in December.
- E-zines (Week in Europe and Regional Bulletin) Week in Europe/ Týden v Evropě sent weekly to all 4 000 registered users.

### **Denmark**

#### *The communication environment*

- The media focused on enlargement related elements like the breakdown of the IGC. The agreement about regulation of access to the Danish labour market after enlargement as well as its implementation is still subject to coverage.

#### *Media*

- In December EU coverage obviously centred on the IGC and its failure. Poland was described as being very tough on negotiations, but other reasons for the breakdown were also dealt with, among them the Italian Presidency. However, several newspapers gave descriptions of how the Polish PM, Leszek Miller, was praised by the Polish media after the summit.
- The anti-EU movements and politicians thanked Poland. So did for example Ditte Staun, spokesperson for the People's Movement against the EU, in the daily Politiken claiming that Poland does not want to be a second-tier country.
- In a comment on the website of the Confederation of Danish Industries and in the DR (Danish public radio), Ms Lykke Friis, director of European Affairs, called the enlargement with the Eastern countries remarkable and pointed out that it should be remembered that it would have been unimaginable before 1989.
- The Danish Chamber of Commerce is quoted in an article brought by the Erhvervsbladet, a small Danish business newspaper, as referring to an analysis carried out by its chief economist. According to this analysis, enlargement will cost 23,000 Danish jobs within the next few years, but it will create more than 40,000 jobs in the long run, i.e. when consumers in the new member states gain means to buy more Danish goods. DR picked up the story, but dropped it shortly after. Journalists made no requests for more background on the analysis. The Chamber of Commerce is now working out documentation for the Representation.

- Trade unions will increase control of illegal labour after 1 May 2004, Politiken wrote. The story is a follow-up on the coverage of the new agreement regulating access to the Danish labour market after 1 May 2004, which was described in our last report. The unions support the agreement, as long as the conditions for the workers from the new member states are undergoing sufficient control.
- Illegal labourers have also been at the centre of coverage. In an interview in Politiken the Polish ambassador to Denmark, Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecinska, criticised the Danish debate on labourers from the East for being out of proportions. She was quoted as ascribing the Danish fear to lack of knowledge and recommended the Danes to come to Poland to see the development of the country.
- Articles about the new member states are a regular feature in the Danish media, i.e. a report on Slovakia describing the country's will to reform its economy in the daily Jyllands-Posten.
- The elections in Cyprus were covered along with its possible effects on Turkish prospects for membership.
- In an appraisal of Foreign Minister, Mr Per Stig Møller, it was pointed out that he had held on to EU's obligations to continue negotiations concerning admission of Turkey to the EU. In an outlook on 2004 the daily Berlingske Tidende predicts that the EU will refuse to start negotiations with Turkey concerning admission.
- EU's representative in Ankara has been quoted as saying that a Turkish law against assault on women conflicts with the Copenhagen criteria.
- In the media, the Government and the opposition parties have been debating to some extent the IGC, the Danish opt-outs and the option of one or more referenda, including the possibility of pushing referendum or referenda to 2005. Enlargement is mentioned as the factor, which makes a reform of the EU necessary.

#### *Press releases*

- A press release was distributed to journalists on 19 December 2003 about the grants awarded to the six applicants, who had been selected and found eligible in the second round of the Representation's Call for Proposals for information activities relating to EU enlargement. The press release was also made accessible on the Representation's website.

#### *Information activities*

- The travelling exhibition on enlargement has been promoted to local and regional libraries and institutions and is almost fully booked during spring 2004.
- The daily Politiken has approached the Representation for ways of co-operation regarding a major exhibition on Europe planned for 2004. The aim is to give each of the present and the new member states (after 1 May 2004) one-week the possibility to hold an exhibition. A well-known cultural personality from each of the MS and NMS will be charged with the task of exhibiting his or her country. The exhibitions will be covered in the weekend edition of the Politiken, which

reaches close to 500,000 readers. Politiken will hold a high-profile hearing on the values and identity of Europe in connection with the exhibition.

#### *Products*

- A considerable number of the three thematic folders from DG Enlargement have been distributed. Our latest publication bearing the title “Travelling to the future of Europe” has also been distributed widely. All 20,000 copies have been distributed at request.

### **Estonia**

#### *Public opinion*

- According to a monthly public opinion poll conducted by EMOR, no remarkable changes occurred in the EU support rate in December with 63% of Estonians supporting their country’s EU accession.

#### *Press releases and articles*

- On 3 December, the Delegation issued a press release on the visit of Director-General Philip Lowe of DG Competition to Estonia and set up an interview with a business daily Äripäev. The interview with Lowe was published on 8 December.

#### *Co-operations*

- The Delegation supported a sub-festival of animated films “Animated Dreams” held within the scope of the Black Nights Film Festival from 3 to 7 December. Through the Delegation’s support animated films from the EU countries were brought to the festival. The EU logo was presented in all festival publications and on the home page. The EU logo and a slogan “Animated Dreams are supported by the EU” were shown before every animated film show. The Black Nights Film Festival had about 44,500 visitors.
- On 8 December, the HoD John Kjaer hosted a media reception in honour of the winners of this year’s EU Annual Press Award contest. Ms Vilja Kohler from the biggest daily Postimees received as a prize a visit to Brussels during the EU Summit on 12-13 December.

#### *Information Centre*

- During the reporting period, the EUIC responded to 218 requests for information from the public.
- The EUIC sent about 1500 different EU information brochures to all EU Information Points in the counties.

#### *Information activities*

- On 4-6 December, the EUIC had a stand (“EU MINI” car and exhibition materials) at the youth fair “Teeviit 2003”. This is the most popular annual youth fair in Estonia with over 20 000 visitors. The EUIC distributed almost 23 000 copies of information materials, answered questions and organised an EU quiz.
- The EUIC sent 10 EU board games prepared in the framework of the info programme to the Children’s Hospital, which had launched a Christmas campaign in order to get new games for its playing rooms.

#### *Internet*

- In December, the Delegation’s website <http://www.euroopaliit.ee> received more than 40,000 visits. Most frequently visited pages were News (35%), publication of the Delegation “Your Rights in the EU” (23%) and EU Glossary (19%).
- During the reporting period, 3 weekly electronic newsletters European Union This Week were released. The newsletter is mailed weekly to over 3,500 recipients, including national and local politicians, government sector, NGOs, entrepreneurs and major media channels.

### **Finland**

#### *The communication environment*

- In December, the public attention in Finland focused mainly on the failure of the IGC negotiations. However, the setback taken in the negotiations with regard to the new Constitutional Treaty led the Finnish media commentators to present views on the effects the enlargement will have for the Union. The main concerns regarded the decision-making ability and effectiveness of the EU of 25.

#### *Public opinion*

- According to an opinion poll carried out by the market research company Taloustutkimus Oy for the EC Representation, the results of which were released in December, most Finns consider the enlargement to be positive for Finland. Especially the Finnish industry is expected to gain from the enlargement through increased export possibilities to the Acceding Countries.

#### *Media*

- Enlargement and especially the largest Acceding Country, Poland, received relatively wide attention in the context of the IGC negotiations.
- Above and beyond the IGC, the Finnish media carefully monitored the 14 December parliamentary elections in Northern Cyprus. The fact that the election was tied and the ruling parties and opposition received 25 seats each, was estimated to eventually lead to new elections, as the result was not seen to offer solutions to the future of the divided island.

- Furthermore, owing to the journalists who participated in the two day seminar to Riga and Cesis on 24-26 November the EC Representation organised, there were quite a few stories on Latvia in the Finnish media in December. Both national and regional media were very well covered, and the themes of the stories varied from history, culture, and industry of Latvia to its minority questions and the citizens' hopes with regard to the EU.

#### *Information activities*

- The EC Representation and the Centre for European Studies at the University of Helsinki jointly organised a discussion on "The Future of Europe – Making Sustainable Development Happen". The keynote speaker of the event, which took place at the university premises in central Helsinki, was Commissioner Margot Wallström. The discussion focused on the important role the Acceding Countries will soon have in the EU in terms of questions concerning environmental protection. The event gathered some 140 attendees.
- The Representation also continued its series of regional seminars with a discussion on the future social and economic role of Finnish regions in the enlarged EU on 8 December in Kajaani, north-eastern Finland. The speakers at the event, which was organised in collaboration with the Regional Council of Kainuu, the Europe Information Unit of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the EP Information Office, included among others Special Adviser Mr Paavo Pirttimäki from the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union, and MEP Mrs Riitta Myller. In addition, there was a panel discussion in the seminar. The Acting Head of Representation Mr Timo Pesonen opened the event, which drew together some 40 participants.

#### *Internet*

- The Representation launched its new Internet pages (<http://europa.eu.int/finland>) on 15 December. Citizens can find topical information on enlargement under "Current EU Affairs". The pages also contain information on future information events and summaries of past events and presentations.
- Discussion on the Finnish Government's website forum ([www.minuneurooppa.fi](http://www.minuneurooppa.fi)) continued actively, but focused mainly on the debate within the IGC. The functional role of the forum was emphasised as some citizens contacted it to request information on practical effects of the enlargement, such as travelling in the enlarged EU.
- Both the pages of the Finnish Info Point Europe (IPE) network ([www.eurooppa-tiedotus.fi](http://www.eurooppa-tiedotus.fi)) and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) ([www.upi-fiia.fi](http://www.upi-fiia.fi)) had been updated for new information and links on enlargement and related events.

#### *Products*

- The Finnish Institute of International Affairs presented on its website Ms Kristi Raik's doctoral thesis *Democratic Politics or the Implementation of Inevitabilities? - Estonia's Democracy and Integration into the European Union*,

defended at the University of Turku in 29 November. The thesis examines the construction of democracy as part of Estonia's integration into the EU, bringing out both positive and negative effects on its democratic institutions and civil society, on public discussion, and on relations between citizens and the state.

- The publication of articles resulting from the financial support of the EC Representation to journalists visiting the Acceding and Candidate Countries continued with articles on the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Cyprus.

#### *Information Centre and Relays*

- The EC Representation and the EP Information Office's joint Info Point continued to inform the public on enlargement as usual. The citizens were mostly interested in practical matters affecting their every day lives.
- The Finnish IPE network continued its "Fact and Fiction about the EU's Acceding Countries" series of exhibitions organised in collaboration with municipal libraries around the country. In December, exhibitions could be seen in four towns: 21 November – 18 December: Pukkila, southern Finland, 1 – 14 December, Maariehamn, Åland; 2 – 17 December: Vähäkyrö, western Finland, and 3 – 30 December: Loimaa, southern Finland.

#### *Information activities related to the Convention*

- Europe Information of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs evaluated its autumn 2003 series of discussions open to public concerning the EU's forthcoming Constitutional Treaty. At the whole, Europe Information arranged 21 forums all over the country, having at least one event in every province. Several Finnish Ministers, including Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen and Minister for Foreign Affairs Erkki Tuomioja, spoke at the events. Overall more than 2 100 citizens took part in the forums, the average number of listeners being 100 per event. The most frequently asked questions concerned the relation of the Constitution of Finland to the Constitutional Treaty, as well as the need for a referendum. More philosophical themes such as "Where do the ultimate borders of Europe lie", "Is there a genuine feeling of European identity", or "What is the true meaning of the EU Citizenship", were also discussed.

## **Germany**

### *Public opinion*

- In the forum of [www.cdu.de](http://www.cdu.de), a discussion on EU enlargement is revealing fear of economic disadvantages and reflecting issues such as evolution of nationalities and multi-culturalism.
- FTD writes that most Germans feel threatened by the enlargement. According to a poll done by nfo infratest commissioned by the Spiegel magazine 68 % of the Germans fear that accession of Eastern European countries will have negative effects.

- The accession of Turkey is still discussed in the forums of [www.politikforum.de](http://www.politikforum.de) and [www.tagesschau.de](http://www.tagesschau.de). Controversial issues are, among others, Turkish cultural identity and integration.

### *Media*

- Over the month the media coverage focused on the failed negotiations to reach an agreement on the EU Constitution. Opinions in the media ranged from heavy criticism to cautious optimism for a conclusion of the talks in the coming months. The issue of a two-tier/core Europe re-emerged.
- In terms of enlargement, the coverage focused on the consequences of the failed negotiations on the Constitution and the emerging budget dispute between net contributors and beneficiaries.
- In the immediate aftermath of the summit the media was busy with identifying who should be blamed for the failed talks.
- “SZ” wrote that the founding members and others who are willing should proceed and grab the initiative. “European, strategic thinking will experience a ‘renaissance’.”
- “Handelsblatt” wrote that “core-Europe” cannot be the answer to the constitutional and financial crisis. It remains clear, though, that the policies and the decision-making processes of the enlarged EU must be improved. In a review of 2003 the paper argued that the blocked constitution represented a heavy blow for the EU. Current and future members are facing a “pile of broken glass”.
- If there is no recovery of the “European spirit” in the near future it may prove impossible for the current political generation to give Europe a Constitution, wrote the director of the Centre for European integration research, Ludger Kühnhardt, in “RhM”.
- Commenting on the budget dispute, “Welt” argued that the current course of net contributors appears to be an act of revenge for the blocked Constitution. “If you want to destroy Europe, this is the way to do it,” the paper wrote. On the other hand, though, the proposal to freeze the EU budgets at max. 1% might be the approach leading to a sincere debate about the future of the budget.
- A report in ARD’s “Morgenmagazin” pointed out that the letter of six main budget contributors to the Commission, arguing for a limited budget after enlargement caused a high degree of anger within the Commission.

### *Information Centres and Relays*

- On 8 December the European Information Centre (EIZ) Lower Saxony visited the Christmas fair in the city of Goslar with its information bus. From 11:00 am to 16:00 pm the EIZ-team informed the citizens of Goslar about the enlargement of the EU. Ewa Klamt, member of the European Parliament (MEP), as well as Rudolf Götz, member of the Lower Saxony’s parliament and Dr. Otmar Hesse, mayor of Goslar, visited the EIZ information stand in order to discuss EU-related

questions with interested citizens and to answer their questions regarding the enlargement of the EU.

- One week later, on 15 December, the European Information Centre (EIZ) Lower Saxony visited the Christmas fair in Celle. Numerous citizens took the opportunity to visit the EIZ-information stand that offered a lot of interesting information leaflets about the enlargement of the EU. Georgia Langhans, Dr. Otto Sumpf and Anei Wiege, all members of the state Lower Saxony's parliament, visited the EIZ-information stand in order to discuss EU issues and answer questions.
- The Carrefour Saxony organised a working visit of Saxonian Regierungspräsident Dr. Hasenpflug in Voivodship Opole/Poland in co-operation with the satellite Carrefour Opole. This visit took place on 18 December. It was hosted by the supporting organisation of this satellite Carrefour, the Schlesische Selbstverwaltungsverband Lesnica (Silesian Self-management Association Lesnica). On the agenda were among other things the ceremonial signing of the declaration of partnership between the communities of Lesnica and Crostwitz/Saxony. Apart from that a discussion with the mayor of Lesnica Hubert Kurzal about the border-spanning activities with Saxony in 2003/2004, a visit of the grain processing plant of the producer group "Grain" in Lichynia, which was established with the help of the Carrefour Saxony as well as the attendance of the year-end celebration of the Silesian Self-management Association took place. More than 100 guests participated. Polish local press and radio broadcasting reported about the event.

#### *Information activities related to the Convention*

- The Informations-Zentrum Europa in Cologne organised a public information event about the European Constitution. Mr. Siebo Janssen, who is a voluntary contributor to the Informations-Zentrum Europa, explained the reasons for forming a Constitution and provided an insight into the complicated working process of the European Convention. After Mr. Janssen's detailed presentation the way for a fruitful discussion was paved. The event gave the public the possibility to put questions to an expert with in-depth knowledge of the Convention.

## **Hungary**

#### *The communications environment*

- The first steps towards understanding the government's position on EU information were taken when a new official – Gyöngyvér Gyene – was introduced to the staff of Minister Juhász, with the remit of handling information.
- The failure of the IGC and the persistent low levels of EU-optimism were coupled with public uncertainty on the future of the EUKK to produce a rather negative background.

### *Public opinion*

- According to a recent comparative analysis of present and future member states conducted by Gallup Hungary on the basis of Eurobarometer poll, 56% of the Hungarian citizens believe that membership is a good thing. The majority of Hungarians consider the country's forthcoming accession a positive thing. The figures reflecting optimism concerning EU membership are higher than the average of the 10 accession countries, and considerably better than the EU average. Among 'Old' member states support for EU membership is highest in Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands (77, 73 and 62%, respectively), while among the 10 'newcomers' Cyprus, Slovakia and Hungary lead the way with 59, 58 and 57%.

### *Press releases*

- EU provides development aid to third countries – new opportunities for Hungarian NGOs and Hungarian companies
- European Information Centre - for 5 years in the service of Hungarian citizens
- Commission to sign key social inclusion agreements with accession countries

### *Press conferences*

- Press Conference on the visit of Director General Giorgio Bonacci

### *Interviews*

- Interview of Giorgio Bonacci with MTV, EU News
- Interview of Giorgio Bonacci with Vilaggazdasag
- Interview of Jürgen Köppen with MTV, Úton Európába

### *Information events*

- 2 December, Merlin Theatre - The Jour Fixe in December was held on the chances of Hungarian food and wine in the EU. The panel involved Baron Georg von Twickel, Winegrower from Szekszárd, Prof. Árpád Somogyi, Pre-Accession advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Daniel Labrosse, French chef in Budapest. The moderator was Mr. Géza Gelencsér, a journalist.
- 4-5 December, Brussels - A Seminar on Communication Strategy on the EURO and EMU, organised by DG ECFIN, signalled the start of the communications activity for the adoption of the euro by the ten acceding countries. It was also the occasion when the DG unveiled the draft communication strategy.
- On the first day, there were presentations made by DG Regling of ECFIN, the head of the focus group research body, OPTEM, and the joint evaluators of the previous Euro communication campaign, from the firms Deloitte and Touche and Burson-Marsteller. On the second day, there were presentations by Director Cas

Granje and Unit Head Blackie of DG ECFIN and by Mme Ardaillon-Poirier Director of Communications of the ECB. There was also a presentation of the UK Treasury's Euro Changeover Programme, which proved highly stimulating. The principal aim of the organisers was to keep alive the close-knit relationship, which existed among insiders during the last campaign, and to give the first chance to newcomers to join in. Several Delegations and Representations were among the participants and offered constructive input during the working groups.

- 8 December, Győr - The Head of Section represented the Delegation at the CBC programme opening, made a brief presentation and took part in a round table.
- 9 December, Szeged - This meeting with entrepreneurs and EU forum for pensioners was organised by the Szeged European Information Point and by the Delegation. The forum for entrepreneurs was the precursor to a major event to be held in 2004. The pensioners' forum was well attended and gave rise to a number of questions, which were answered on the spot.
- 11 December, Budapest - The Association of Autonomous Trade Unions started the Trade Union Conference. They invited the Delegation to participate and to deliver a lecture on the effect of the accession on the Hungarians, employees and employers. After the lecture it turned to a rather informal meeting, since a lot of questions arrived from the audience.
- 11 December, Budapest - The Delegation was asked to participate and to speak on behalf of the European Commission at the Roma conference. The Head of Section introduced Commission work in this area and invited responses for a meeting in Brussels to be held on 17 December.

#### *Information Centre*

- Visitors of EUIC in December: 740
- Beginning of December the Information Centre celebrated its 5th anniversary. About 120 guests, partners, colleagues and regular customers were attending the event. On the same occasion the IC launched its new website [www.eu.hu](http://www.eu.hu). Two radio interviews were given and Hungarian news agency and MTV were present at the event.
- In the framework of the IC's monthly lecture series „Let's talk about Europe” the topic of the December event was the „Structural Funds – Possibilities for Hungary after accession”. A representative of the Office of the National Development Plan and EU support gave the lecture. Around 40 participants attended the event.
- The Centre received a group of 25 policemen from the Police College.
- Presentations given at events: A lecture on Internet sources at the Pest Information Point, a lecture on EU tender possibilities at the Hungarian Chamber, a lecture on lobbying at the Citizens Forum at the 18<sup>th</sup> district, and a lecture on Youth Programmes in Nagyköros.

- IC staff participated in a welcome and information event of the new Maltese embassy.

## **Latvia**

### *The communication environment*

- The European Integration Bureau has been reorganised as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Its functions have been transferred to the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice and the State Chancellery.
- The Central Election Commission prepares for European Parliament elections. The Law on European Parliament elections has been discussed in Saeima.
- The lack of transparency in Riga City Council regarding bonuses was widely discussed.
- The Director of the National TV Uldis Grava has accepted proposal from the governing party “Jaunais Laiks” and from the New Year will work for the party.

### *Media*

- Managing, administration of structural funds. Latvia’s redlines to administrate the structural funds. Possibilities to use EU funding in different areas
- Discussion on the nomination of Latvia’s European Commissioner
- The Central Election Commission and Political Parties prepares for European Parliament elections
- Latvian Development plan approved by the European Commission
- European of the Year – football player Māris Verpakovskis
- SAPARD programme has been closed

### *Press releases*

- December 1, Visit of Mr.Rasbash to Latgale region
- December 5, ECD information strategy for the year 2004
- December 5, Description of European Commissioners selection procedure
- December 5, Contest “Explore Europe!” in Daugavpils
- December 8, Presentation of European Dialogues – 3
- December 8, Seminar of EUIP

- December 9, EPSO competitions
- December 9, Regional information day in Balvi
- December 10, Contest “Explore Europe!” in Riga
- December 12, Presentation of European Dialogues 3 post – release
- December 15, Winners of the contest “Explore Europe!”
- December 15, Seminar about culture in EUIC
- December 17, Bibliobus about EU in Ogre

#### *Information activities*

- Information Day in Balvi has taken place on 10.12.2003. The Information Day included lectures about EU Regional Policy, EU information and a lecture on successful EU projects.
- Information Day in Ogre region has taken place on 17.12.2003 - The Information Day was organised in co-operation with Ogre central library mobile library “Bibliobuss”. Information materials about EU were offered to the visitors if the “Bibliobuss”.
- Europe Week 2004 - Several meetings with other information providers have taken place in order to co-ordinate the Europe week activities. Representatives of ECD, LIC and EUIC have been invited as observers in the inter-ministerial working group dealing with Enlargement day celebrations in May 2004.
- Regional EU Information Points - Seminar for co-ordinators of EUIP's was organised on December 9 at EUIC. Address of the Head of the EC Delegation in Latvia Mr.E.Rasbash, a lecture about the European Parliament elections and the evaluation of the activities in 2003 were included in the seminar.
- December 15 - Team Europe organised a meeting of the Team Europe and a training seminar in EUIC. Topic of the seminar was Public information in Latvia after the referendum on the accession to the EU.
- Contest “Explore Europe!” - ESU – Latvia Regional School Competition “Explore Europe!” was a contest for secondary school pupils willing to make and present their presentation on different EU topics using English language and modern presentation opportunities. The project was implemented in co-operation with Latvian English speaking union. Activities were organised in different regions of Latvia: Valmiera, Saldus, Daugavpils and Riga. In each region one winner was nominated. Price for the winners - possibility to participate in 6 daylong camps “Youth for Europe” in Prague.

#### *Internet*

- Number of the home page visitors: 5592

### *Publications*

- “European Dialogues 3”, a book covering all topics discussed in the European Dialogues during the year 2003 was published in December 2003 in 1000 copies. Presentation of the book took place on December 9. This was the third and the last book of the project European Dialogues. The European Dialogue events attracted the very important target group of opinion leaders and academics. However, it must be noted that usually this group was quite constant in terms of opinion. These events provided the opportunity to look at Europe in more general terms than the EU, to find common and different in history, values, culture and future. The produced book is unique as no similar books are being produced in Latvia. The book was a good addition to the regular events “European dialogues” in EUIC. The special value of this book lies in the involvement of opinion leaders and the academic elite. This book is provided for an audience, which is more interested in discussing Europe from a philosophical aspect.
- EC Publications - Brochure "Going for growth. The economy of the EU" - translation and editing provided.

### *Information Centre*

- Seminar about Culture in EU and Programme Culture 2000 has been organised at the EUIC on 16.12.2003. Information about internet sources to be found on the Europe server about culture was given to the audience. Priorities and guidelines in Culture 2000 as well as successfully implemented projects were also presented in the seminar.

### *Other information activities*

- The Ministry of Foreign Relations under supervision of the Minister of Foreign relation Ms Sandra Kalniete established an inter-ministerial working group for the organisation of Enlargement day celebrations.
- The Ministry of Finance launched a new website [www.esfondi.lv](http://www.esfondi.lv) summarising all information regarding EU structural funds in Latvia.
- The European Movement in Latvia (EML) has announced their “Europeans of the Year”. This is a tradition already for many years that at the end of each year the EML organises contest inviting everyone to nominate a person who has made the most important contribution on Latvia’s way to the EU. This year’s winner of the award “European of the year” is the football player Maris Verpakovskis who made the decisive goal allowing Latvia’s team to participate in the European Football championship.

## **Lithuania**

### *The communication environment*

- EU affairs are a rather frequent theme discussed in the media. The upcoming accession is raising discussions among people on various topics. The media gives much information about structural funds. It is discussed whether Lithuania is ready to absorb and administrate the funds in the appropriate way. The major concern of people is the rising prices. After 1st of January, the prices of several products have increased, and it was immediately related to the future membership by the media.

### *Media*

- The media was dominated by information related to the presidential crisis, which prevailed over all other issues. Publications and reports about the costs of membership appeared in the media more often than usual.

### *Joint projects/media projects*

- Support to EU Information Centres - EUIC has started implementing activities like discussions, lectures, seminars, public events, etc. for local communities, which were foreseen in their work plans for financing submitted to the Delegation. Special events will be organised to celebrate the day of accession.
- Support to libraries hosting EU Information Shelves - 23 public libraries, allocated financing for EU-related activities all over the country, have started implementing activities for local communities. Special events will be organised to celebrate the day of accession.

### *Information activities*

- 16 December - Seminar for journalists on the European Constitution and European Parliament elections was organised. The initiative came from the journalists. 25 journalists, mainly from regional media, attended the seminar. Prof. Krupavičius made a presentation on European Parliament elections. As the seminar took place immediately after the Brussels European Council, the journalists showed a great interest in the questions related to the European Constitution. Mr Andriukaitis, Deputy Chairman of the Seimas, Member of the European Convention from Lithuania, presented the process of drafting the Constitution, the main agreements achieved in it, the problems that remained unsolved and their reasons and why it was important to adopt the Constitution at all. Mr Martikonis, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made a presentation on how Lithuania's interests will be presented in the institution on various levels.

### *Promotion items*

- A modified logo for further use and in particular for Accession Day events has been elaborated. The modified logo consists of the word "Europa" and the date of accession "2004 05 01". The colors of Lithuanian national flag are also included.

- A stand and exhibition of the Irish Presidency was prepared and is displayed at the Information Centre. Publications and posters were provided by the Embassy of Ireland. All visitors of the Information Centre can get acquainted with Ireland and the main tasks and priorities of the Irish Presidency.

#### *Newsletter*

- The weekly electronic newsletter e-Zinios – in Lithuanian and Russian - is being issued. The mailing lists are being revised and updated. New software has been created to register new recipients and the recipients who face problems in receiving the newsletter.

#### *Other information activities*

- Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, together with several other institutions and public organisations, has published a book on EU accession negotiations. The book reflects the process of negotiations and is a reference of main documents.

## **Luxembourg**

#### *L'environnement de communication*

- Tandis que la Chambre des députés, et plus particulièrement sa Commission des affaires étrangères et européennes, sont actuellement occupées à examiner le projet de loi approuvant le Traité d'adhésion signé à Athènes, la période de fin d'année n'a pas été riche en événements nationaux liés à l'élargissement.

#### *Etat de l'opinion publique*

- L'opinion publique luxembourgeoise à l'approche de 2004 peut se mesurer à travers les contributions faites par 26 personnalités luxembourgeoises, d'origines différentes, dans les pages du Luxemburger Wort sur le thème: «Elargissement de l'UE: nécessité historique avec des chances et des risques». La majorité des intervenants est d'accord pour dire que l'Europe se trouve au début d'une nouvelle ère. Mais leurs réflexions tournent autour de la place du Grand-Duché dans une UE sans cesse plus grande, des risques entraînés par l'élargissement, les éventuelles limites de cette expansion notamment pour tenir compte de la nécessaire cohésion interne, du danger d'une confrontation culturelle ou d'espoirs intellectuels ou matériels déçus.
- Pour Jean-Claude Juncker, il n'y a qu'une seule frontière en Europe: celle existant entre ceux (aux idées non finies) pour lesquels une zone européenne de libre échange est suffisante, et ceux (aux idées finalisées) qui souhaitent un plus d'Europe là où moins d'Europe serait un risque non calculable.
- Pour le député européen Robert Goebbels, l'élargissement «historique» de l'UE risque d'être inscrit dans les livres comme l'année pendant laquelle le processus d'ingération politique a échoué face aux égismes nationaux et l'Union a dégradé dans le sens d'une simple zone de libre échange.

- Pour le Président de l'OGBL, le plus grand syndicat, l'Europe reste une aventure. Le directeur de la Fédération des industriels appelle à saisir les chances de l'élargissement. Le ministre de l'Economie appelle les citoyens à se mettre à la place des nouveaux pays. Claude Turmes, député européen des Verts, voit en 2004 une année d'un nécessaire sursaut collectif.
- L'historien Gilbert Trausch reste le plus critique. La construction européenne serait un domaine dans lequel le parler vrai est peu pratiqué. La crise promettrait d'être longue et profonde, aux conséquences encore imprévisibles. En ce qui concerne les institutions, on aurait dû "approfondir avant d'"élargir", au lieu de le faire en même temps. Une grande zone de libre échange ne serait pas cette communauté de destin que les pères fondateurs avaient en point de mire. Il faudrait donc insuffler à l'aventure européenne une nouvelle dynamique. Celle-ci ne pourrait venir que du groupe des Six. Le nom de la structure importerait peu; l'essentiel étant qu'elle soit ouverte aux autres pays. Le Luxembourg s'y joindrait évidemment, sachant que dans une Europe approfondie, il sera plus à l'aise et arrivera mieux à faire entendre sa voix.

### *Media*

- La presse luxembourgeoise a surtout traité lors de la période sous revue la situation en Pologne, un pays avec lequel le commerce extérieur luxembourgeois a été multiplié par six (de même que pour la République tchèque, et multiplié par dix pour la Slovaquie), comme l'a fait remarquer Lydie Polfer lors de la réception de Nouvel An au Ministère des Affaires étrangères.
- La Pologne aurait joué des coudes, en pesant en 2003 de tout son poids de plus grand des dix futurs membres de l'Union européenne, en se distinguant par son intransigeance sur nombre de questions, notamment la future Constitution européenne. Tandis que le président Aleksander Kwasniewski qualifie une Europe à deux vitesses comme menace pour la Pologne, et ne compte pas sur un accord prochain sur la Constitution européenne, il pense aussi que le rétablissement de la confiance réciproque entre les partenaires européens est primordial. Entre-temps, un peu d'un mois après l'échec du sommet de Bruxelles, la Pologne, reconnaissant la mauvaise direction prise lors du sommet, éprouverait cependant de réelles difficultés à opérer un revirement de sa position d'intransigeance. Les citoyens polonais auraient des sentiments partagés. D'une part, les prévisions économiques montrent une croissance importante. D'autre part, en dehors du chômage important et du déficit budgétaire, l'adhésion à l'UE devrait entraîner une augmentation des prix.
- Selon la presse, la Slovaquie est aussi opposée à une Europe à deux vitesses, mais souhaiterait participer à un noyau dur européen si une telle solution était retenue.
- La presse relate aussi l'entretien de Günther Verheugen au cours duquel le Commissaire s'est prononcé pour un avancement parallèle de tous les pays au lieu d'une Europe à deux vitesses, s'est montré pessimiste quant à l'issue du litige sur la Constitution européenne mais reste optimiste quant aux chances de la Turquie tout en concédant qu'une adhésion de la Turquie au cours de cette décennie est exclue.

- La Zeitung vum Lëtzebuenger Vollek (communiste) a publié le 17 décembre 2003 un entretien avec Gyula Thürmer, président du parti ouvrier en Hongrie. Ce parti a révisé sa position à l'égard de l'adhésion de la Hongrie à l'UE notamment pour ne pas s'isoler face aux nombreux citoyens supportant cette adhésion, mais reste ne pas très optimiste quant aux avantages découlant de l'adhésion.
- Dans une contribution publiée le 31 décembre 2003 dans le Luxemburger Wort, le Président de la Banque centrale du Luxembourg estime nécessaire de maintenir la crédibilité de l'euro. Pour les pays adhérents, il ne s'agirait pas seulement de remplir de façon mécanique un certain nombre de critères pour adopter l'euro, mais encore d'assurer la capacité de rattrapage du niveau de vie régnant dans les pays de l'UE actuelle. Les limites de l'expansion européenne restant indéfinissables à l'heure actuelle, la définition notamment géographique de l'Europe ne devrait pas être laissée à une logique de surenchère démagogique, mais devrait prendre en compte la poursuite d'une logique d'intégration qui n'a pas d'équivalent dans l'histoire.
- Le dossier chypriote n'est pas oublié par la presse qui fait état des démarches, au début du mois de janvier 2004, pour reprendre les négociations au plus vite sur la base du plan Annan proposé en novembre 2002, dans l'espoir d'aboutir à une solution avant mai prochain, date d'entrée de la partie grecque de Chypre dans l'Union européenne.

#### *Produits d'information*

- L'argumentaire destiné à être distribué aux décideurs et multiplicateurs est en cours de distribution. Cet argumentaire servira notamment de base de référence dans le cadre des discussions sur le projet de loi approuvant le traité d'Athènes, déposé à la Chambre des députés le 31 juillet 2003.

## **Portugal**

#### *The communication environment*

- The summit of Brussels and the consequences of the failure in the adoption of a European Constitution were largely covered by Portuguese media and the main theme concerning European affairs.

#### *Public Opinion*

- The first results of Eurobarometer 60 were published in December. The survey shows that the support for enlargement decreased in Portugal (-8%) in the period analysed (interviews were conducted in October-November 2003). This fact may be explained by two main reasons. Most national and international studies show that, in economic terms, Portugal will be the current Member State that will gain less or that will lose more with the new accessions. Businessmen and other relevant organisations publicly endorsed this pessimistic perspective, which was referred in past monthly reports. Secondly, the economic crisis and the increasing

unemployment rates, apparently with no short-term solution, have contributed to a generally pessimistic perspective.

### *Media*

- News related to enlargement was scarce in December. The most significant subject addressed by Portuguese media was the signature of the Portuguese President of the Republic on the decree that ratifies the Accession Treaty, thus concluding the ratification process in Portugal. On the occasion the President stressed the fact that the European Union is the only existing option for a European project of 'democracy, cohesion and solidarity' and that Portugal has always been a strong supporter of the new accessions.

### *Projects/co-operation with media*

- The production and broadcasting by local radios of programmes on enlargement continued as foreseen. About 30 programmes have been broadcast by five radios. Most of the programmes already produced involve local authorities and relevant personalities of the respective region.
- In November, the Representation, in co-operation with the embassy of Turkey in Lisbon, organised a visit of journalists to that candidate country. As a result from this initiative, two extensive articles on Turkey were published in December, in 'Público', one of the largest daily newspapers in Portugal.

### *Products*

- The monthly electronic newsletter on enlargement, in Portuguese, was distributed to local radios, regional press and information relays. It is also available on the Representation's Internet site.

## **Romania**

### *The communication environment*

- The month was dominated by the debate over the finalisation of the electoral laws in view of the coming elections in 2004. The main European event that held the attention was the European Council in Brussels (December 12-13), with the Romanian authorities holding their breath over the confirmation of the accession deadline, as the EU member states (old and new) discussed whether it should be flexible (whenever ready in 2007) or not (the already stipulated January 1st 2007). The latter alternative won and was confirmed in the conclusions of the Council. The failure to reach a compromise on the European Constitution caused fewer waves in Romania, but was nevertheless a major topic of the debate pertaining to the European integration process. The new European Integration Minister held his first press conference to announce priorities in the accession process, consultations with all involved and next steps to be taken. Together with the Foreign Affairs Minister and the Chief-Negotiator he met with Commissioner Verheugen to discuss the schedule and actions to be taken in 2004. Romania also

succeeded in finalising another three negotiation chapters: transport, free movement of persons and financial control.

### *Public opinion*

- Several polls were published during the month, more or less linked to the integration process. Beginning of the month, EIU published a report, according to which the Romanian economy is expected to register by end year a growth rate of 4.5%, based mainly on acceleration of foreign direct investments rhythm and of the privatisation process.
- Also at the beginning of the month the OLAF annual report was made public. According to it, frauds over the period 2002-2003 involving EU funds referred to 850 MEuro. As regards frauds involving EU funds for the candidate countries, more than one third of the files involved EU funds granted to Romania (54 of 126 cases). The high number of cases reported was due to good co-operation with the Romanian authorities and continuous exchange of information between the two parties, as well as to the fact that OLAF had carried out a mission every two months in order to assist the Romanian authorities in their investigations. Of the 54 listed cases, 41 refer to Phare, 10 to Ispa and 3 to Sapard.
- Mid December the EBRD published its Transition Report. According to its conclusions referring to Romania, the privatisation process has slowed down, the business environment remains weak and the legal framework leaves too much room for interpretations. As regards the financial discipline sector, the Government should take measures to recuperate debts from bad-payers, or else the population might start doing the same.
- Also in the second part of the month, OSCE published a report on trafficking in human beings in SE Europe. According to its conclusions, in Romania there are no procedures established for the repatriation and assistance of children, subject to such trafficking. The monitoring was carried out during the period November 2002 and April 2003, in 8 countries (Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldavia, Romania and Serbia-Montenegro). The conclusions of the report show that the trafficking in human beings is on the rise, although the number of victims is decreasing as compared to last year. As for Romania, the report shows that with the elimination of the visa obligation, the trafficking has been reduced. The elaboration of an action plan for further reduction of the trafficking in human beings is appreciated.
- The Delegation carried out its own surveys. The first one is a qualitative media report (results not made public) on scandals / Phare-related frauds, covering the period July – November 2003. About 700 articles were analysed. The analysis was carried out over the written central media as the A/V media is largely following the same pattern. The local media generally covers the same topics as the central one by largely quoting it. When local scandals emerge, they are mainly in connection with the local barons' access to Phare funds, and are taken over by the central media very soon after their outbreak. The general conclusions of the report referred to the main scandal were in relation to the Puwak case. In all other cases, the Phare-related scandals were also linked to other corruption-like behaviour, such as bribery, funds embezzlement, and top officials releasing false information.

In these cases, the main focus shifted from the Phare-related issue to the other issues involved. The Puwak scandal increased sensitiveness and “inspired” political parties and media to look more attentively at similar cases involving local or central high-level officials. The EC Delegation was not a major actor in the developments of any of the cases under scrutiny and its image did not suffer major damages with only a few negative articles towards the Delegation. OLAF became notorious as the control body of the European Commission.

- The second survey carried out by the Delegation was a research on youth behaviour performed online by one of the 15-25 partners. According to its results, young women are more interested in careers, while young men in having a family. The Romanian youth main interests refer to rock, football and career development. The results of the research got major TV coverage on private TV station Antena 1 on December 6<sup>th</sup> during prime time.

#### *Public opinion*

- December 8th – Debate on the “Institutional reform of the European Union. Impact on Romania’s European future”, organised by the Institute for Free Initiative. The debate was attended by the State Secretary of the Ministry of European Integration, Andrei Popescu.
- December 15th - Workshop entitled “We have integrated the pig. How do we slaughter it?”, organised National School for Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA), together with the Academia Catavencu. The issue of the slaughtering of the Christmas pig was discussed from European integration, economic, anthropological, ethnological, legal and cultural points of view, with the SNSPA students.

#### *Media*

- The total number of articles and broadcasts over the considered period was 3,977 (in national newspapers, local press and broadcasts on A/V media) of which:
  - 1,795 articles were published in the national newspapers: 1,388 news, 185 stories, 98 commentaries, 34 analyses, 59 editorials, 4 feature stories / investigations and 27 interviews;
  - 1,578 articles were published in the local press: 1,270 news, 90 stories, 42 commentaries, 22 analyses, 121 editorials, 13 feature stories / investigations and 20 interviews;
  - 604 broadcasts on A/V media
  - The main topics covered by articles and A/V broadcasts referred to:
- | • Topic                       | No.items |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| • EU Institutions / reactions | 705      |
| • EU assistance programmes    | 795      |

- Romania's accession process 2,190
- EU enlargement process 439
- New member states 95
- Corruption (Romania's actions in tackling this issue) 296
- The Delegation of the European Commission 182
- Total 4,702

*Press releases*

- 2 December - Signature FM Phare 2003
- 3 December - Launch of institution building project on social services
- 4 December - EC Delegation reaction to article on sales of Romanian children
- 4 December - Results of online poll 15-25
- 8 December - Construction and rehabilitation of sections 4 & 5 of Bucharest-Constanta highway
- 8 December - Closure of public awareness campaign on children
- 8 December - Launch of project aimed at protection of animal health
- 10 December - Launch of twinning project for set up of National Agency for Equal Opportunities
- 12 December - Results of the second edition of the European Reporter contest
- 12 December - Anniversary of 10 years since set up of EC Delegation
- 15 December - Launch of national monograph on education and professional
- 15 December - Launch of twinning project for harmonisation of public accounting system
- 18 December - Successful projects under Phare programme for civil society
- 19 December - Launch of Europa Fund 2004

*Press conferences*

- 2 December - Signature FM Phare 2003
- 8 December - Closure of public awareness campaign on children
- 9 December - Construction and rehabilitation of sections 4 & 5

- 10 December - Set up of National Agency for Equal opportunities
- 15 December - Harmonisation of public accounting system
- 18 December - Successful projects under Phare programme for civil society

#### *Press interviews*

- 1 December - HoD on significance of National Day(s) – radio station Radio Romania
- 3 December - HoD on children situation - radio station BBC and TV station TV
- 10 December - HoD on corruption, accession - weekly Academia Catavencu
- 11 December - HoD on 2004 prospects - daily Curentul
- 19 December - HoD in talkshow “Academic 15 minutes” – radio station Radio Roman
- 19 December - HoD interview on 2004 prospects - TV station Realitatea TV

#### *Information events*

- Three training sessions were organised on the Visual Identity Manual, on December 11th, 16th and 17th, aimed at EU-funded contractors, PAAs, public administration staff and press offices of the line ministries.
- The results of the second edition of the “European Reporter” contest were announced during the Xmas party organised for the media.
- 13 events were organised at Information Centre, amongst which were 2 press conferences, “Class EuroPatru”-related events, the launch of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities, a workshop on FP6, a media interview of the HoD, as well as a group visit of 25 pupils from the Elementary School No. 27.

#### *Internet/Website of the Delegation*

- The EC Delegation dedicated page [www.infoeuropa.ro](http://www.infoeuropa.ro) was updated on the infoeuropa website.
- The number of single hits reached 26,724, with 18.5% less than in the previous month, but higher with 76.2% as compared with December 2002. The most active day was December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day of the signature of the Financing Memoranda for 2003 Phare programmes. With more than 17,000 copies the most downloaded files were the Financing Memoranda in questions.

#### *Publications*

- The set of FAQ for the leaflet “10+” on CAP and rural development issues, aimed at the rural population, was finalised.

- The “Europa Fund 2004” launching fiche was finalised and published.
- The Visual Identity Manual has been further updated.

#### *Information Centre*

- The number of visitors registered during the month was 509, of which 216 were (42.5%) men and 293 (62.5%) women. The structure of the public was divided as follows: academic (319 - 62.6%), media (4 - 0.78%), NGOs (32 - 6.28%), public administration (27 - 5.3%). The daily average number of visitors was 36.3. The main topics of interest referred to: EU (238), EU policies (104), accession process (46).
- Over 47,000 copies of in-house publications were distributed to regular visitors and, upon request, in country. Over 68 kgs of general publications and 199 copies of in-house publications were mailed upon request. The call centre support involved replying to 240 calls for information, with a daily average of 17 calls. 58 requests via E-mail were answered.

#### *Other information activities*

- Youth campaign - The online research on youth behaviour, conducted on the 15-25 website, by one of the partner organisations, was finalised and its results were made public.
- Rural campaign - The drafting of the first issue of the paper-like publication started following several clarification meetings between the delegation and the editors.

#### *Networking*

- Starting in December, a regular network-dedicated column was included in the Information Centre Newsletter.
- A meeting with multipliers was organised in Craiova, Dolj. Amongst the participants were Romania’s Chief-Negotiator and the Regional Information Officer with the EC Delegation.
- The research on the use of specific network instruments is ongoing.

#### *Extranet*

- 198 logins were registered on the Extranet during the month. 4 new users were added in December to reach total number of 425. 63 emails were sent during the month using the discussion groups.
- December 18th - The chat with Mihai Dumitru organised on the Extranet dealt with the topic of “Romanian traditions and European integration”.

## **Slovak Republic**

### *The communication environment*

- The Slovak Government advanced preparations for the opening of its first and only European Information Centre in Bratislava. The Delegation provided logistical and technical support in form of training of staff of governmental EIC and supply of wide range of publications.
- The city of Bratislava will play a leading role in organisation of the Accession Day events. Given the ambitious agenda of Bratislava event with budget supported also by large commercial sponsors, no separate activity will be staged by the Delegation. In order to strengthen the regional dimension of Accession Day, the Delegation will organise a popular concert and accompanying information and social events in the regional capital of Banska Bystrica in Central Slovakia.

### *Interviews*

- 17.12. - Interview for the private TV Markiza
- 18.12. - Children TV News - Slovak Television (STV)

### *Press releases*

- 18.12. - "Commission to sign key social inclusion agreements with accession countries"

### *Information activities*

- Europe Access Free – 1st Conference on Structural and Cohesion Funds in the regional capital of Nitra on 16th December. 250 participants representing possible future beneficiaries attended the conference. Main speakers included Minister of Construction and Regional Development Mr Gyurovszky and his State Secretary Mr Lukac, Head of Delegation Mr van der Linden, Head of Unit for Slovakia and the Czech Republic Mr Wolfe etc. After the official opening and general presentations on EC policies, the working part consisted of separate workshops, where main Sectoral Operational Programs were introduced and discussed in detail. All participants received info-packs with Delegation publications. Local printed media and the Slovak Radio covered the conference.

### *Publications*

- Euromagazine No 4 was printed in 12 000 copies, 9000 of which were directly mailed to relevant multipliers across Slovakia. 3000 copies are distributed through the Delegation, European Information Centre and its network of partners, in particular in the regions. As for all publications of the Delegation, they can be viewed, downloaded or ordered via Delegation web site [www.europa.sk](http://www.europa.sk).
- Reprint and distribution of the two brochures “ABC of the Community Law” and “Slovakia and the European Union” in edition of 5000 copies each

- Factsheets - Production, publishing (1000 copies) and distribution of 2 factsheets on the Irish Presidency and the IGC

#### *Partnerships with Civil Society*

- Financial support to International Film Festival in Bratislava on 28 November – 9 December 2003. The support was provided for the Section of European Film, which recorded more than 29 000 visitors. The European Information Centre hosted the meeting of the Board of the Festival
- Technical support to NGO Centre for European Policy for organisation and promotion of lecture of former chief negotiator Mr Figel
- 3 lectures organised for secondary schools in Bratislava

#### *Internet*

- Webpage was upgraded from html to a new, user-friendlier php protocol, while being continuously updated. E-newsletter Europe by mail was produced and distributed to 300 recipients on a weekly basis.

## **Slovenia**

#### *The communication environment*

- December began with the news that Alojz Peterle won the European Voice Achievement of the Year Award, which got quite a lot of coverage in the media, especially TV. The meeting of Prime Minister Anton Rop with President Prodi was widely reported on, especially with regard to their discussions on the candidates for the Commissioner from Slovenia. The preparations for and the eventual failure of the IGC continued to receive coverage in the press.

#### *Media*

- The Head of Delegation participated at the Obrežje border crossing opening ceremony, together with the Prime Minister and other representatives of the Slovene government. As the border crossing is the first built according to the Schengen standards, the event attracted much media coverage.

#### *Press releases*

- President Prodi's statement on the Aids Day
- Statement by the Delegation at the occasion of the Human Rights Day, 10 December

#### *Interviews*

- The HoD gave a long interview for the leading Slovene women's magazine, Modna Jana.

### *Information activities*

- The Head of Delegation hosted a dinner for the editors and journalists of the main Slovene media.

### *Internet*

- The website, [www.evropska-unija.si](http://www.evropska-unija.si), had 4486 visitors in December.

### *Products*

- e@Evropa was published 3 times in December.
- EU Novice/News newsletter (issue 68) was published in December.

### *Information Centre*

- Three European Wednesdays were organised in December.
- Genetically modified organisms: EU and Slovenia together with representatives from NGOs and the governmental organisations
- Leonardo da Vinci – mobility projects in co-operation with the Centre for mobility and the European Programmes, Education and Training
- Human rights and the role of International Criminal Court organised with Amnesty International Slovenia, with participation of the Head of Delegation
- Cultural events and travelogue evenings - Travelogue evening: Presentation of the book "Mediterranean Kilometres", by Gregor Fodransperg, on his bicycle travels in the Mediterranean countries. Travelogue evening: the Netherlands.
- Centre Evropa also hosted several events organised by different Slovene institutions:
- The changing role of Slovenian special libraries related to EU enlargement organised by the Library Association of Slovenia
- Proclamation of the best EU related essays organised by the 'Interes' Association, a Slovene NGO working with young people
- International day of mountains and presentation of EU projects organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
- Presenting and managing of EU programmes – seminar for local authorities and NGOs together with CNVOS, the Centre for information service, co-operation and development of NGOs
- Phare SPP contracts signing ceremony with Head of Delegation
- Lectures by Centre Evropa staff - Grammar school in Ptuj, Primary school Ilirska Bistrica

- Round tables in Centre Evropa - International AIDS day – a round table was organised by the Delegation on 1 December in co-operation with the Slovene Health Institute
- Other events - First meeting of Team Europe Slovenia members with the Delegation.

#### *Other information activities*

- The Head of Delegation (HoD) made the opening speech at the Year of Disabilities closing ceremony organised by the Ministry of Labour.
- The HoD participated at the ceremony to mark the beginning of the construction of a new Asylum Home.
- The HoD gave a lecture to a group of primary school students who are involved in an EU Students' Club
- An EU day was organised in the city of Novo mesto in southern Slovenia, during which the HoD met with the representatives of the Roma community and gave a lecture at a local high school.
- The HoD gave an opening speech at an NGO national conference.

## **Sweden**

### *The communication environment*

- The historic importance of the Copenhagen Summit and the difficult negotiations preceding the European Council were the natural focus of interest around enlargement in December. Generally, the interest in European Affairs was much larger than in the previous months of the year.
- In addition to the ongoing information activities around enlargement, the Representation organised a special briefing for the media and opinion multipliers on the outcome of the Copenhagen European Council on Monday 16 December, right after the Summit week-end.

### *Public opinion*

- According to the Swedish Television, support for the enlargement process appeared to be decreasing in Sweden in December with a growing concern among the public about the likelihood of increased crime and immigration of cheap labour force resulting from the EU expansion.
- The Standard Eurobarometer 58 highlights report issued in December suggested that the support for the EU enlargement had stayed on a 52% level from September 2002 to November 2002.

### *Media*

- Media coverage on enlargement issues was extensive both before and after the Copenhagen top meeting. This level of interest has only been matched by media reporting on EU affairs during the Swedish EU Presidency two years ago.
- The focus of the reporting centered on the historic importance of the next enlargement, the difficult negotiations particularly with Poland, and the next steps regarding the candidacy of Turkey. Also the successful role played by the Danish Presidency throughout the tough negotiations was acknowledged by the media.

### *Information activities*

- In part of the Representation's framework project on enlargement with the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), two seminars were held in December.
- The first one held on 4 December tackled the theme "EU and Russia" with Dr Nadia Arbatova from IMEMO as a key note speaker and Director Ari Heikkinen from the Finnish MFA and Mr. Alar Olljum from SCSS as commentators.
- The second seminar focused on Slovenia as a bridge builder in regional co-operation. It was held on 16 December with Mr Alojz Peterle, Parliamentary representative to the EU Convention as the key note speaker and Dr Nicolaus Rockberger as a commentator.
- In part of its Meet the Commission series, the Representation hosted a briefing by Mr. Christian Danielsson from Commissioner Verheugen's cabinet on the outcome of the enlargement negotiations on 16 December. About 40 people representing the media and various other multiplier organisations attended this session.

### *Internet*

- An icon to the renewed DG Enlargement web site is placed visibly on the front page of the Representation home page (see [www.eukomm.se](http://www.eukomm.se)). Also, the updating of the separate web pages for the EU enlargement project with SIIA continued (see [www.ui.se](http://www.ui.se)).
- As regards the Web magazine, a large number of articles was published and new ones are continually added to the site.

### *Other information activities*

- The Candidate Country embassies in Stockholm continued to promote the awareness of their respective countries through various cultural events and other occasions.

## Turkey

### *The communication environment*

- The EU Summit in Brussels and elections in Northern Cyprus occupied the public agenda in December. Particularly, the outcome of Northern Cypriot elections and its impact on the Turkish membership to the EU and the results of the European Council's 38th meeting in Brussels on 12-13 December were widely discussed at various circles in Turkey.

### *Public opinion*

- On 5 December, the research and survey company Pollmark published the results of an opinion poll titled "Survey on Turkish Public Agenda in November 2003." A total of 2400 people were surveyed in major Turkish cities (Istanbul, Tekirdağ, İzmir, Bursa, Adana, Ankara, Konya, Samsun, Trabzon, Erzurum, Malatya and Gaziantep) covering all regions. Some questions related to the EU were also posed to the respondents.
- 75.2% states that they would vote in favour of Turkish membership to the EU in case of a referendum, while 18.1% states that they would vote against. 78.5% of AKP and 78% of CHP supporters favor EU membership. There is no major gender, age or education level difference among the advocates of EU membership. 30% believe that Turkey could become an EU member in its present conditions. 65.5% do not believe that Turkey could become a member. 37% support the decision to allow the opening of Kurdish language courses.
- According to the last survey of the Bosphorus University's Europe Research Centre, the support for the EU membership of Turkey has increased significantly in the last one and a half year. According to the previous survey of the Centre in 2002, 64% of the Turkish people supported the EU. However, the current survey shows that 74% of the participants support Turkey's EU membership. The question was, 'if there were a referendum on the EU membership of Turkey, how would you vote?' If you consider the participants who did not answer this question, the rate would be 81%. Even two thirds of the people, who have doubts about EU's intentions, would still vote for the EU membership in a possible referendum. 79% think Turkey will benefit from the EU membership. 2 % disagree. 43% believe that Turkey will be a member in 5-10 years. 65% believes Turkey will be a member eventually.

### *Press releases*

- 26.12.2003 - EU Supports Maritime Safety in Turkey

### *Information Centre*

- On 5 December, the EUIC team organised a meeting at Sabancı University Karaköy Communication Centre bringing together the representatives of various universities in Istanbul. These students will act as the voluntary ambassadors of the EUIC at their universities and will help to establish an active communication link between their respective university and the EUIC. Around 40 students

participated to the meeting. Following the meeting, an e-group named “abforum-univ” has been set up to bring together university representatives. The main objective of this e-group is to enhance co-operation among universities in issues related to the EU and to establish an effective channel of communication among students. Through this e-group the EUIC team will announce events and seminars that will take place in the Centre and the university representatives will be responsible for disseminating this information to the students.

- In December, the EUIC team gave three seminars on EU education programmes to the student clubs at Marmara University, Mimar Sinan University and Fatih University. Around 210 students participated to the seminars. Following the seminar’s several questions were received both about the education programmes and the EU in general. Around 150 students requested to be subscribers of GH magazine. Around 210 copies of Güncel Haber magazine, “Turkey in the accession process” brochure, the folded enlargement brochure and EU stickers were distributed to the students.
- The team also organised an information event at İstanbul University, Faculty of Education, where the EUIC team explained the purpose of the EU Communication Strategy Project. The participants were academicians, administrators and teaching.

#### *Team Europe*

- Ministry of Internal Affairs asked for an EU-Turkish relations expert for a seminar to take place on the 22 of January. Dr. Aylin Güney from Bilkent University was proposed to give a lecture.

#### *Europe HORIZONS Information Programme*

- Turkey-EU seminars were first held in Kars, Erzurum and Van in July 2003 and the project continued with the seminars in Trabzon, Konya, Elazığ and Malatya in September; Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Kayseri and Sivas in October; Eskişehir and Kütahya in November. Two seminars, Denizli and İzmir, followed the others in December. Totally 15 seminars have been put on the ground since the beginning of the project. Concerning the preparatory meetings for the future seminars, Zonguldak, Isparta and Antalya have been visited in December.
- In December, a total of 6 seminars have been organised in different cities of Turkey by the relays which are partners of the project. As for details on project activities of EU relays please see item “information network” below.
- In December, four radio programs were aired on a weekly basis. The programs consist of the following sections: Opening of the radio show, News of the week, Topic of the week, civil society /young people of Europe, New policies, Dictionary. The topic of the 9th programme was 'Turkey's EU Strategy, reforms achieved on the way to Europe, what kind of Europe will Turkish people find.' EU education opportunities for young people, Common Agriculture Policy (COP) and reforms needed to be achieved in Turkey to cope with EU COP were also discussed along with the negotiation process.

- The topic of the 10th programme was "Turkish Cypriot elections, current situation in the island, and its effects on Turkish - European relations." Jean Monet scholarship programme, EU's neighbors' policy and the concept of "third country" were also discussed in detail.
- On the 11th programme the main topic was "EU common currency EURO; advantages and disadvantages of using EURO, Is it possible for Turkey to use Euro?" EU Lingua Programme, EU Consumer Policy; what does it bring to European consumers on health and security, harmonisation of Turkish legislation with EU and European Central Bank were among other topics.
- On the 12th programme the topic was "EU Financial assistance to Turkey, programs opened to Turkish partners, application procedures, and priority areas. EU Leonardo Da Vinci Programme, EU Environmental policies, harmonisation of Turkish environment legislation with EU legislation and the European Investment Bank were also discussed.

#### *6th. International Meeting of Cinema and History Film Festival project*

- The Festival has been realised from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2003 in Istanbul. The main themes were "Meeting of Civilizations", Human Rights and Enlightenment. The festival had ended successfully. The festival had been announced on TV, press, magazines. TURSAP has sent press releases and the festival fragment to the reviews, newspapers and TV and hanged banners on Istiklal Street. The posters, the brochures and the catalogues of the festival had been printed and distributed. The Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr.Erkan Mumcu attended to the opening ceremony.

#### *Publications*

- Weekly e-Bulletin "Güncel Haber" - A total of 21 issues of e-bulletin 'Güncel Haber' have been prepared up to now with around 405 news reports prepared both in English and Turkish and sent to around 11,000 recipients. The feedbacks are generally very positive. It also provides a good contact tool for recipients to pose questions, forward information related to activities and new publications as well as comments on the news.
- Bi-monthly magazine - The first issue has been distributed to the target groups. The articles for the second issue have been prepared and the magazine will be sent to printing house.
- Publication of "EU Funded Projects" brochure - Extensive work has been carried out to complete the content and the lay-out of booklet in December. Both the English version and the Turkish version will be printed in the beginning of January.
- Publication of "Turkey's Accession Process to the EU" Brochure - The content of the brochure that was printed in Ankara was updated including the information related to the Regular Report 2003. The new content was printed with the same layout.

- Publications on Europe for Adults and Children project - History Foundation - European Articles in toplumsal Tarih Journal: European Section of Toplumsal Tarih has continued to be published as usual. The evaluation questionnaire has been sent out on various e-mail lists and placed on the web page of the History Foundation.
- Translation of European History Education Books - All books have been translated, published and ready to be distributed.

#### *Activities of EU Regional Information Network*

- EU Regional Information Network has involved in a number of local / regional activities including seminars, dissemination of information products (Electronic newsletter, fact sheets, booklets, brochures, etc.) sent by ECR to local media, universities and NGOs; answering of public queries. Seminars are mainly being organised in partnership with ESIAD, which is the project leader of the EU funded EU network support project “Europe Horizons over Anatolian skies”.
- Visibility at media: 21 articles, visitors total: 109
- 9 December 2003 - Community Programmes, İzmir
- 10 December 2003 - EU Agricultural Policy, Erzurum
- 11 December 2003 - Community Programmes - EU-Turkey Relations, Samsun
- 13 December 2003 - Community Programmes and EU -Turkey Relations, Van
- 15 December 2003 - Community Programmes and EU-Turkey Relations, Isparta
- 18 December 2003 Community Programmes and EU-Turkey Relations, Gaziantep
- 10-14 December 2003 - INFO stand set up at the İpekyolu 2003 fair, Trabzon
- 17-28 December 2003 - INFO Stand in World Trade Center, Trabzon
- 27 December 2003 - Cultural Activity, Theatre for children, “sevda lı bulut”, attended by 370 children, Antalya

#### *Activities of EDCs/Universities*

- In December 136 persons visited the library of the Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Maritime Trade and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). 47 publications used.
- Istanbul University European Documentation Centre - 60 persons visited the EDC in December 2003.
- Marmara University European Documentation Centre - 288 persons visited the EDC in December 2003. 704 publications used.

- Bilgi University European Documentation Centre - 24 persons visited the EDC in December 2003. Some 896 persons visited the EDC website.
- Anadolu University European Documentation Centre - In total 23 persons visited the EDC in December 2003.