

THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR ENLARGEMENT

PROGRESS REPORT #12, FEBRUARY 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://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/contacts/index.htm>

The DG Enlargement Information Team

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The Delegation in Prague is preparing a joint project with the OBI do-it-yourself chain store for presentation of the EU in 16 OBI stores in Czech regions during 3 weekends in the early spring. These events will likely take place during March and April 2003. Logistical and promotional assistance plus financial support is being provided for the EU Youth Orchestra concert in Prague on 5 April 2003.

- On the 11th of February, for the 9th time since last year the delegation organised the informal roundtable-discussion with farmers to discuss their fears and questions concerning accession. The event was organised with the co-operation of the European information Point of Pécs (South Transdanubia region) in the Europe House of Pécs with more than 100 farmers. Questions were more detailed and farmers seemed more prepared. Several interviews were done on the event. Two regional dailies, two radios and two television stations (Pécs TV and the regional branch of the national television – MTV1) reported on the event.
- The joint project with the National Radio, the most popular radio station Lithuania is on-going, EU-related inserts are introduced into 5 already existing programmes: for rural population, early morning programme “Native land”; special morning programme “Morning sounds”; programme for minorities in Russian; Cultural programme; Midday programme “Day of Lithuania”.
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THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY ON ENLARGEMENT

What the polls say

- CVVM: 59 % would vote for European Union membership if a referendum on the Czech Republic's accession to the EU were held in February, according to a poll by the CVVM polling centre.
- Public opinion in Bulgaria continues to harbour a positive attitude towards the accession process. 63% of respondents support membership – 34.6% “definitely”, and 28,4% “rather”. Only 8,4% definitely do not support accession.
- In Hungary, According to the survey conducted by Gallup Research Institute on a sample of 1009 people, between 6-13 February 2003, 59% would vote yes at the referendum on Hungary’s accession, 16% would vote against, 15% are undecided and 10% are Decided not to go voting. 55% of the respondents were decided to participate at the referendum. Amongst them, 78% are for Hungary’s EU accession, 15% are against and 7% are undecided. According to Szonda-Ipsos' survey also conducted in February 2003 on behalf of the MoFA, 63% of the population are decided to participate at the referendum. Amongst them, 71% would vote yes for the accession at the referendum, 14% would vote no, and 15% undecided.

Creative ideas and events

- The municipality of Vilnius is organising a Congress of the Young Generation, those born after the independence of Lithuania was restored on 11 March 1990. Young people cannot vote at the referendum, but they are going to invite their parents to think about the future of their children and their country, and vote in favour in the referendum. The Congress will take place a week before the referendum.
- The Delegation in Prague is preparing a joint project with the OBI do-it-yourself chain store for presentation of the EU in 16 OBI stores in Czech regions during 3 weekends in the early spring. These events will likely take place during March and April 2003. Logistical and promotional assistance plus financial support is being provided for the EU Youth Orchestra concert in Prague on 5 April 2003.
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THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY BY COUNTRY

Austria

Media

- The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation has signalled that it is interested in producing Enlargement related television reports in 2003, presumably to be aired in September/October.

Information requests

- An estimate on the questions submitted by phone or in writing to the Representation reveal that roughly 30% of all requests are directed at Enlargement proper, another 10% seeming to come from indirectly Enlargement-

related questions. The majority of requests come from young academics/students, which should not necessarily be considered representative.

Activities

- On Tuesday 25th of February the Representation invited people to an event within the cycle of Dialogues with Accession Candidates , this time presenting Romania.

Internet

- The modified structure of the Website [<http://www.europa.eu.int/austria>] of the Representation appears to find general acceptance. The presentation of some 25 links, of which roughly a fourth are at least indirectly related to Enlargement, directing to current news releases on the Europe-Server has been welcomed by a number of users.

Press releases

- Commission proposal to adapt the financial framework for enlargement

Bulgaria

Public Opinion

- Public opinion in Bulgaria continues to harbour a positive attitude towards the accession process. 63% of respondents support membership – 34.6% “definitely”, and 28,4% “rather”. Only 8,4% definitely do not support accession.

Media

- The leading news items in January were on EU Financial Aid; Kozloduy Case Enters Court; Transport Chapter ; Iraq Conflict To Be Discussed at EU Summit; Differences between EU and Bulgaria’s Positions on Iraq; Kuneva, Stankov, EU Ambassadors Discuss Justice Reform ; Chirac Brands Bulgaria & Romania about Iraq Stance; Croatia applies for EU Membership

Press Releases

In February the following press releases were distributed to the media:

- Multilingualism in the European Commission: A long-standing tradition and an asset to the European Union
- CAP reform: Commission proposes to simplify agricultural state aid regime
- Eurostat survey "Agricultural holdings in the EU in 2000. One in every two holders in the EU is aged over 55. The area of their holdings is half the average" – in English and Bulgarian

- Commission strategy to protect Europe's most important wildlife areas – frequently asked questions about NATURA 2000
- eLearning: Commission launches website for information and exchange
- Commission presents its proposal to adapt the financial framework for enlargement
- Commission Seeks New Environmental Partnership with the Union's Eastern Neighbours
- New Spokesman of the European Commission Appointed – in English and Bulgarian.

Press releases sent on the occasion of EC information events and initiatives

- A seminar, Bulgaria and the European Union held under the project Bulgaria and the European Union - Opportunities and Responsibilities for the Youth
- A seminar The Economic Policy of the EU in the context of its Enlargement
- A new press pack on Enlargement targeted at TV journalists
- The launch of the competition for celebrating Europe Day in Bulgaria
- The launch of the fifth edition of the Annual Journalistic Prizes Robert Schuman

Subsidies and co-operation with print and electronic media

- The seven projects, which have won the media partnership competition in the four categories, were launched in February.
- The *European Perspectives* module introduced by the widely popular Internet-based media Dnevnik Online interprets the broad scope of accession-related information for various groups (civil society, students, SMEs, farmers, academics...). The main navigational tool in the module features six interactive sections with a different topical focus, which simultaneously serve up information and poll the opinion of individual readers. Throughout the month approximately 350 journalistic pieces were uploaded on the *European Perspectives* module, entered by around 15 500 visitors. The project was largely advertised on the Internet, in the Sofia metro station, on the radio and in the print media.
- The partnership with Manager Magazine marks the attempt to approach more specific information needs via a special rubric entitled *How Does the EU Support Business?* The February edition featured 8 pages of information, practical advice and expert guidance to the business sector of Bulgarian society. The trend towards strengthening the regional approach is manifested in the partnership with the Bulgarian Regional Media Association. By developing a network of three local dailies in border regions, the Association initiates effective collaboration between a Sofia team of qualified journalists and the local newspaper staff under the project *The Bulgarian Business: Development by Co-operation*.

- Bulgarian National Radio broadcast 4 editions of the one-hour *Eurohorizont* programme - every Friday in the time slot 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. The *Eurohorizont* programme is designed as a special module, in which the practical every-day dimensions of Bulgaria's accession to the EU occupy the focus of attention. *Eurohorizont* programme has existed with great success for 8 months. Presently, it is improved, as its well-known features are preserved in the same form and four new ones are introduced.
- A partnership with BG Radio can be assessed as a precedent in approaching the young audience exclusively, since the radio format targets the most active strata of Bulgarian society – the greatest part of the listening audience is 20 – 39 years. The slogan of the project is *I Know Why! Bulgaria in the EU*. In February 19 information features each focusing within 90 seconds on different aspects of the pre-accession process were broadcast (a total of 38 broadcasts were aired – two per workday, in the time slots 10.00 - 12.00 a.m. and 4.00 – 6.00 p.m.). Every Friday between 1.00 and 2.00 p.m. the radio held a contest – a question-and-answer game, based on information announced during the feature, current news on the EU and Bulgaria and general background of the EU. 103 listeners participated throughout the month, 8 of whom won prizes (EU merchandise – souvenirs with the EU logo), supplied by the EC Delegation to Bulgaria.
- Bulgarian National TV's top political programme Panorama implements a project entitled *European Television Stories*, comprising five short TV documentaries, on the EU enlargement aspects on a political level and, parallel to that, focus on the "European idea" implications in the life of ordinary people. The underlying concept of the project is to ensure unconventional presentation of the way Europe looks at Bulgaria, and Bulgaria at Europe. The documentary TV modules shot by Panorama are themselves profiles of four member states, but the series as a whole assembles the overall image of the EU. The launch of the project was announced in one of its editions in February with a short trailer of the first story shot in neighbouring Greece, followed by Minister Kuneva's comments.

EU Information Events

- The United Children Complex, Blagoevgrad held a seminar on the topic "Bulgaria and the European Union" on February 15, 2003 in the Auditorium of the American University in Bulgaria. The seminar marked the start of the project *Bulgaria and the European Union -Opportunities and Responsibilities for the Youth*. Dr. Olga Borissova, Director of the Centre for European programmes at the American University in Bulgaria delivered 3 lectures on the following topics: The EU and the Process of Enlargement, Bulgaria's Progress in the Negotiation Process, EU Youth and Education Programmes. The results from the questionnaires, which the students filled in, showed almost universal appreciation.
- Media Development Centre Foundation's project *The EU accession process for Bulgaria: The question marks for the media* co-financed by the EC Delegation to Bulgaria comprises three seminars for Bulgarian journalists. The first seminar *The Economic Policy of the EU in the context of its Enlargement* took place on February 17th, 2003, with 28 journalists (11 from regional and 17 central media).

Internet

- In February, a total of 87 new documents in Bulgarian and English were uploaded on www.evropa.bg. The update included daily EU-related practical and accession news, news about EC Delegation participation in public events, news about EU programmes' calls for proposals and competitions as well as documents with supporting information to EU issues.
- A new content section *Questions and answers* was added within the menu of www.evropa.bg. The first publications in this section include: FAQ about 6th Framework Programme (extraordinary interest from academics and NGOs); FAQs on CAP Reform, European Health Insurance Card, Nice Treaty, changes in EU legislation regarding protection of intellectual property rights, NATURA 2000.
- The news topics published on www.evropa.bg in February 2003 reflect a variety of EU developments that have or would have an impact on accession country citizens. The news highlights:
 - Robert Schuman Journalist Award competition announcement
 - The inauguration of the ISPA-funded Sofia airport new passenger terminal
 - Phare contribution to nuclear safety in Bulgaria (Delegation presentations at public events) and the Memorandum for Phare Horizontal Programme for Community support in the field of Nuclear Safety 2002
 - Commission financial perspective for 2004-2006 with the proposed step-by-step funding for Bulgaria;
 - Commission initiative to simplify EU legislation;
 - Eurostat report on EU farmers
 - EU 15 and 13 candidate countries – joint position on Iraq
 - EU Practical Guide for Broadcasters from accession countries
 - Commission reports on employment in candidate countries
 - Croatia application for EU membership
 - Romano Prodi meets Hungarian mayors
 - New terms in travelling with pets in the EU
- The www.evropa.bg news alert subscription continues to attract an increasing number of subscribers at a monthly rate of about 20%.
- The final results of the 36-days web promotion of the new www.evropa.bg in January 2003 in the 6 most popular Bulgarian web portals register an overall 50% increase of visitors coming to www.evropa.bg from Bulgarian web portals. Total visiting users in February 2003 were 22 560 compared to 24 298 in January.

- In February IC visitors averaged 35 per day. The most frequently requested information was about Europa 2002 programme, followed by EU's position on Iraq crisis and member states' economic indicators.
- An Information Day about the Jean Monnet project took place with BECSA, Academic network for the Future of Europe and the College of Europe Alumni Association in Bulgaria.
- IC co-organised an Information day about the specific area of activities under 6th FP in close co-operation with National contact point and the Ministry of Science and Education.
- On the occasion of the Greek presidency of the EU the National Association of the Bulgarian European Clubs /NABEC/ and IC co-organised an event under the motto "Europe – a community of values" dedicated to Greek heritage and modern days. Students from different schools presented Greek songs, dances and cuisine, the major centres of culture from ancient times to the present day, the European integration of Greece, etc. An exhibition under the motto "Greek mythology through the eyes of the children" was launched.
- In February close partnerships were established with the Association of PR Officers at Municipalities, Association of Bulgarian Farmers and Federation of the Scientific-Technical Unions in Bulgaria.
- A total of 30 new titles were added to the IC collection. The most requested acquisitions are "Monitoring of Bulgaria's Accession to the EU 2002" of Friedrich Ebert Foundation and "Eurofunding Comprehensive Guide." Yearly IC subscription for a full access to the Eurofunding Internet Database was made.

Events

- 3 February: EU papers presentation: the Institute for European Studies and Information /IEII/ and Economic Policy Institute organised a presentation of working papers about EU enlargement.
- 4 February: Environmental Workshop: Bulgarian environmental NGOs discussed their activities under the EU financed project Partnership for the protection of endangered species. The workshop was organised by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds.
- 6 February, Co-ordination meeting between the Delegation and World Bank.
- 7 February Group visit: students from 9th grade of Veda School, Sofia visited the IC and had a discussion on the topic "Enlargement of the European Union and Bulgaria" with IC Director.
- 10 February, Public lecture *Skepticism in modern thinking* was delivered by Prof. Sebastien Charles, University of Sherbrooke, Quebec. The lecture was co-organised by Centre for Advanced Study, New Bulgarian University and IC.
- 11 February Greek presidency event: public administration reform.

- 13 February EU seminar Sustainable use of energy and transport in the EU – the right way for preserving the environment, organised by Borrowed Nature Association. Presentation of manuals in Bulgarian, “Energy and environment in the EU” and “Transport and environment in the EU”.
- 20 February IC co-organised an Information day about two EU programmes Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-Based Society of the Sixth Framework Programme & Jean Monnet Project on European Integration Studies.
- 21 February Group visit: on the day of Croatia’s application to the EU, students from Prof. Zlatarov School, Sofia discussed the current developments of the enlargement process.
- 24 February European Day of Greece was an initiative of the students from NABEC and IC.
- 27 February Workshop on “The Politics of Regulatory Impact Assessment” was organised by the Centre for European Programmes of the American University in Bulgaria and the European Policy Institute. Speakers from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Croatia.
- 28 February PR Seminar on the “Image of a country” was organised by the Bulgarian branch of the International PR Association /IPRA/.

Czech Republic

Opinion Poll

- CVVM: More than half of Czechs (59 %) would vote for European Union membership if a referendum on the Czech Republic's accession to the EU were held in February, according to a poll by the CVVM polling centre. Support for accession has recently grown, while determination to take part in the referendum remains on the same level - one in three. This means that the general trend as regards people's willingness to vote in the referendum has not changed since January, when it dropped. It is most often people with elementary education, pensioners, unemployed, residents of Moravia, west Bohemia and small municipalities who said they would not go to the polls.
- Young people, respondents with higher education and those who consider their living standards good most often said they would take part in the referendum. Of them, up to 3/4 would vote for EU membership. Approximately one in four respondents said they were against European integration, most often pensioners, poor people and respondents over 60. Accession is supported by almost 80 % of followers of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), by 75% of Christian Democrats (KDU-CSL) and 66% of Social Democrats (CSSD). The willingness of supporters of the three above-mentioned parties to take part in the referendum is even higher: almost 100 % of ODS supporters said they would attend the referendum.

Supporters of the Communist party (KSCM), on the contrary, oppose EU membership, and 2/3 said they would vote against EU accession - only one in five said they supported it.

Media

- The Czech media mentioned the EU primarily in relation with the implementation of the Czech government's communication strategy led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The campaign for the European Union accession referendum to take place on June 15 and 16 was given the green light by the government on 12 February. A month and a half before the referendum, the campaign will pick up speed as advertisements and statements about the EU will start to appear in newspapers, on television and radio and in other media. The campaign's logo will be the word ANO (meaning "yes" in Czech) where the O will be formed from stars.
- Opponents of EU membership are preparing their own anti-membership campaign and will distribute leaflets, organise demonstrations, protests and concerts.
- Independently, public Czech TV launched a campaign financed from their own resources, interviewing distinguished Czech personalities on questions such as the positive/negative aspects of EU membership and how would the person concerned would vote in the accession referendum. The TV shots are being aired several times a day, including prime time prior to main evening news and they are. Most personalities presented very positive attitudes to EU membership.
- A press lunch with former Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok took place during his visit to Prague on 24 February 2003. 21 journalists took part in the event.
- Delegation is supporting several media projects. These include i) the European Family project on Prima TV; ii) the European Earphone project in co-operation with the Association of European Journalists; and iii) a further Europe-focused project managed by the economic daily, Hospodářské noviny, and Czech Radio 1.

Press releases

- 5.2.2003 – press release on EU Phare funds support for the renovation of the sewage systems in the West Bohemian town, Mariánské Lázně
- 7.2.2003 – press release on EU twinning programme to support the effective development of the Czech energy market and support for the market regulator
- 7.2.2003 – press release on EU twinning support for the Czech Justice Ministry to provide technical assistance to the Czech Probation and Mediation Services
- 11.2.2003 – press advisory refuting local claims that the EU requires pig farmers to buy toys for their livestock
- 17.2.2003 – press release on an international conference, EU Enlargement, Civil Society and European Governance, backed by the Italian Cultural Institute and supported by the Czech EC Delegation

- 19.2.2003 – press release on visit of former Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, to the Czech Republic and his participation at regional programmes on EU in the Liberec Region and in Prague
- 20.2.2003 – press release on the 10th Days of European Film programme

Published articles

- 1 February - Article on Perspective for the European Commission Foreign Security Policy (CFSP) by HoD, Pravo column
- 3 February – Article on EU pension policy by HoD, Pravo
- 10 February - Article on Agriculture, CAP, Globalisation by HoD, published in Deniky Bohemia
- 17 February - Article on the Czech Republic, EU enlargement and the WTO by HoD, Zemedelec
- 20 February - Article on EU- US trade relations by Commissioner Pascal Lamy, Ekonom
- 20 February - Article on recruitment to EC institutions by Commissioner Neil Kinnock, Lidove Noviny
- 22 February - Article on the Iraq crisis by HoD, Pravo column
- 24 February - Article on Lisbon Strategy by HoD, Hospodarske Noviny

EUIC contributions:

- SONDY (weekly journal of the Czech Trade Unions): EUIC staff regularly contributes articles on a bi-weekly basis.
- Týdeník školství – (newspapers for teachers and pedagogical staff). EUIC submits articles on a weekly basis.
- Focus Magazine of the British Chamber of Commerce (on a bi-monthly basis).

Press conferences

- 18-19.2.2003 – Press events during the HoD's visit to the South Moravian Region. Full press service for press conferences in Břeclav and Uherské Hradiště including invitation of journalists, phone follow-ups and press conference monitoring. Roughly 20 journalists attended both media events (12 in Břeclav and approx. 6-8 in Uherské Hradiště).
- 21.2.2003 – Press conference to deliver information on the conference on EU Enlargement organised by the Italian Cultural Institute and the Delegation, 20 visitors.

- 24.2.2003 – Delegation prepared a short meeting with selected journalists for Mr. Wenceslas de Lobkowicz in the EUIC.
- 25.2.2003 – Press event for former Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, and Head of Delegation Ramiro Cibrián in Liberec. 15 journalists took part.

Press seminars

- 5-6 February EU journalists organised by EJC; 50 visitors
- 27 February CAP – Iman Boot, DG Agriculture, 30 visitors
- 28 February The Structural Funds organised by Europeum; 50 visitors

Information Events

- During February the EUIC provided 4 lectures to students on EU issues. 112 persons attended these events.
- The EUIC had its mobile information stand at the Holiday World Fair 2003 (13-16.2.2003) in Prague.
- Regional Events promoting the knowledge of EU:
 - The Head of Delegation made a visit to Podbořany, Žatec and Louny (Ústecký region) on 12 February 2003. The regional visit included a number of meetings with regional leaders, 30 in Podbořany and 20 in Žatec. The public debate in Louny was attended by 70 local citizens.
 - The Head of Delegation made a visit to Břeclav, Hodonín, Kyjov, Uherské Hradiště and Kroměříž (Southern Moravia) on 18 and 19 February 2003. Approximately 50 decision-makers from Břeclav and the surrounding area participated at the round table discussion in Břeclav and some 15 journalists attended the press conference at the Břeclav City Hall. At Hodonín, approx. 20 local decision makers attended a lunch, 45 seniors were at the debate which took place afterwards. Delegation representatives held a special meeting with farmers in Čejkovice. The day's programme concluded with a public debate in Kyjov (approx. 270 participants), which was attended by mayors, representatives of NGOs, and the general public.
 - Visits to Uherské Hradiště and Kroměříž took place on the second day of 18-19 February regional tour. During the morning, the Head of Delegation led a round table discussion with approx. 30 participants (politicians, business leaders, NGOs, and journalists) in Uherské Hradiště. He thereafter gave a press briefing for local journalists. The second day of the regional tour programme concluded in Kroměříž with a lunch - round table discussion (approx. 20 participants) followed by a meeting with women, attended by 140 participants and a public debate (55 participants). A parallel programme was organised the second day as well – approx. 35 people attended a meeting with farmers in Uherské Hradiště. Representatives of the Delegation and the Czech Ministry of Agriculture led discussions at the farmers meeting.

- Head of Delegation Ramiro Cibrián and Wim Kok, former Dutch Prime Minister, visited Liberec on 25 February 2003. During the morning, both representatives led a round table discussion attended by regional decision-makers from the Euroregion Nisa. Approx. 40 participants joined in the discussions, together with a number of journalists. The Liberec visit also included a meeting with students and teachers, arranged with the support of international students groups. Approx. 60 students and teachers from CR, Poland and Germany took part at this event. The programme concluded with a public debate, which was attended by approx. 85 people. In addition to Mr. Kok, the programme was also attended by Mr. Klarenbeek, representative of the Dutch Foreign Ministry, and Mr. De Lobkowicz, Head of Information Unit, DG Enlargement, the Polish Ambassador and representatives from the German Embassy.
- On 27/2, Mr Rutger Wissels, MFA and Delegation visited the town of České Budějovice. The first meeting took place in the Budvar brewery, where the CEO Mr Boček expressed his support to the enlargement process. The lunch was followed by a lecture to students at the University of South Bohemia (130 people) on the impacts of the Copenhagen summit. Most questions were aimed at hypothetical theories of non-membership of the Czech republic in the EU. In the evening, agricultural NGOs hosted a dinner (17 participants) where they discussed the issue of direct payments.
- Delegation is preparing a joint project with OBI for presentation of the EU in 16 OBI stores in Czech regions during 3 weekends in the early spring. These events will likely take place during March and April 2003. Logistical and promotional assistance plus financial support is being provided for the EU Youth Orchestra concert in Prague on 5 April 2003. Preparations for Schuman Day (Europe Day) celebrations in Prague on 9 May 2003 are well under way.

Internet

- 36.266 people visited the Delegation's web-page during February, web-surfers made an additional 2.822 visits to www.eu.tiscali.cz, provided with content from www.evropska-unie.cz
- The co-operation with www.eu.iHNed.cz has been renewed, there are 3 (Documents, Calendar, and Glossary) sections filled with our information.
- The web-page search engine was upgraded and a new feature – “Send a link to a friend” was added to all published articles. Links to other sites from the home (front page of the web-site) were modified – “new look” icons were created and added.

Products

- A reprint of the publication “EU Enlargement”; a new booklet “The EU and a family”, focusing on women on EU entry and the impacts of Czech accession; shopping cart tokens with an EU motif, which will be used as a promo item during the spring public events. Three series of stickers with EU flag motif and flags of

the 15 MS were also produced, alongside with an informative pocket calendar with the dates of the referendum in the Czech Republic.

- production of the February and March issues of the EU Magazine in *Právo* daily newspaper. Delegation continues to distribute an additional 50.000 prints of the EU Magazine in *Právo*. Distribution outlets include GP's, hospitals, public libraries, regional government offices, labour offices, etc.
- The EUIC continues with its regular weekly distribution of *Week in Europe* to approximately 3.900 registered users. Information about seminars and other EU relevant activities, new articles and press releases are also mailed to registered users. Subscribers to the direct mailing service regularly receive information about newly added articles and also invitations to all EUIC's in-door activities.

Information Centre

- 1366 people visited the EUIC during February 2003 and 262 attended events hosted at the EUIC. EUIC information officers answered 2200 requests for information by e-mail and phone.
- The EUIC's Information officers report a visible increase in demand for information. This could be also a result of increased PR activities by the Czech Foreign Ministry. The main topics people are seeking information on include taxes, Schengen, the Accession Treaty, the results of accession negotiations.
- Networking events
 - EUIC Director, Daniela Červová took part in the opening of a new Regional Information Centre (REIS) located in the Regional Government Administration Building in Karlovy Vary on 25 February.
 - A two-day conference was organised on 24-25 February by the Italian Institute in Prague, with the financial and technical support of the Delegation. Entitled 'European Enlargement, Governance and Civil Society', it drew 200 people for the opening, including leading political personalities, academics and high-level civil servants. Wim Kok spoke on the consequences of enlargement.
- Team Europe members provided 9 lectures during February 2003:
 - 6 February Karel Vít in Pardubice, The Impacts of Czech EU Accession
 - 11 February Robert Hrabčík in Most, The Impacts of Czech EU Accession
 - 11 February Vojtěch Krebs in Theatre Solidarita, Comparative Look at Pension Systems in the CR and EU Member-States
 - 12 February Petr Kratochvíl at the EUIC, Basic Questions about the EU: Advantages and Disadvantages of Accession
 - 14 February Karel Vít in Jaroměř, The Impacts of Czech EU Accession

- 19 February Martin Šteiner in Hustopeče nad Bečvou, Development of the EU and the Impacts of Accession on Czech Seniors
- 19 February Martin Šteiner in Opava, EU and Opportunities for the Czech Republic
- 25 February Petr Bajer in Brno, EU Enlargement Process
- 25 February Pavel Černoch in Theatre Solidarita, The Social Impacts of EU Accession for Seniors
- A further series of regular seminars went on in February 2003 in: Brno City Council (general public), Solidarita Theatre in Prague 10 (senior citizens)
- Věra Pavelková – regional co-ordinator at the EUIC, who manages the Team Europe programme, took part in a conference organised by DG Press in Brussels on 19-21 February for Team Europe members, Carrefours and other Info points.

Denmark

Media

- The outcome of the referendum in Malta was generally very positively perceived and covered fairly well both by the printed and the electronic media.
- Croatia's request for membership has been mentioned in all major dailies, but with little attention or no attention from the political parties. Sources in the Polish government have been quoted saying that Poland will use its membership to help Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova to become members.

Products

- Distribution of a considerable number of the three thematic folders from DG Enlargement. Our own publication *EU rykker grænser*, which has just been updated and printed in an additional 20,000 copies, is very much in demand.

Information Centres

- On 6 and 7 March 2002 the Representation held a two day seminar with the relays, including discussion of enlargement activities.

Finland

- During the past few weeks, interest in enlargement issues has stabilised to a fairly high level in Finland. Coverage on enlargement and associated matters is wide, and special events such as summits or referenda still lead to additional attention.

Instead of concentrating on their concerns and fears, which at the end of last year pretty much ruled the debate, the Finns are now looking for factual information and evaluations on the concrete impacts of the enlargement.

New developments

- There was also much debate on the future regional policy of the EU. Its visibility was increased by the late January release of the second progress report on economic and social cohesion: possible reduction in structural funds during the next financial perspective is feared to have a negative impact on the development of many Finnish provinces.
- Regional policy was also linked to discussion about the Northern Dimension of the EU. In Finland, the North is considered to gain significance once the Baltic Sea will become an EU inland sea. The core issue, put forward by representatives of different trade unions, employer organisations and the Government and debated at the Northern Dimension Labour Market Forum on 11 February in Helsinki, is how to best employ the available resources in a way that supports the overall development of the area. Joint Baltic Sea region projects and cross-border co-operation are deemed essential in this sense.

Media

- The manner in which enlargement has been treated in the Finnish media has changed during the past few weeks. There seems to be a wide-spread underlying assumption that none of the ten “acceding states” will refuse the membership, but will join the Union in 2004 as expected. Therefore, the countries in question are rather commonly referred to as the “future” – or in some occasions the “new” – EU Member States. Their opinions are acknowledged and analysed in matters of general Community interest, and search for possible future factions is equally common. The Finnish security policy discussion has even got a whole new dimension lately as the media attention has pointed at the fact that in addition to most present EU Member States, most of the acceding/accession states either are or will become Nato members as well.

Internet

- The above-mentioned tendency was detectable also on the Finnish Government web-site forum (www.minuneurooppa.fi), where discussion on enlargement continued rather actively. Themes included among others the Member States’ opinions on the Iraq crisis, the amount of Finnish net payments to the EU before and after the fifth enlargement, and the positive effects the enlargement could have on the Finnish national economy.

Representation activities

- Two discussion events were held at the Representation premises. Firstly, the “Europe 2010” series continued on 5 February, when the present European Ombudsman Mr. Jacob Söderman discussed the transparency and openness of the Union with a group of some 80 interested participants. The presentation, titled “an EU of citizens or an EU of states”, was followed by a lively discussion. Secondly,

the Atlantic Council of Finland organised a debate on the work of the Convention on 10 February. Three of the Finnish representatives in the Convention participated in the event, which dealt with numerous aspects connected to the enlargement process.

- The Representation also contacted the present Member States' embassies on organising a new series of Europe 2010 debates on different States' national perspectives on enlargement. The first such event has already been set up for June. The series of regional Europe 2010 discussion events, organised in co-operation with Regional Councils and the IPE-network, will continue in March-April.
- enlargement has continued to be a key issue in other Representation information activities such as the Europa-magazine, web-site, weekly newsletter and contacts with the media and other stakeholders.

France

- Dans un environnement dominé par la crise irakienne, et par les interrogations sur la cohésion des Quinze face à la résolution des Etats-Unis à intervenir militairement, le thème de l'élargissement est revenu sur le devant de la scène politique et médiatique, principalement à la suite des propos tenus par Jacques Chirac à l'issue du Conseil européen extraordinaire de Bruxelles sur la « légèreté » des pays candidats dans leur empressement à soutenir la position de Washington.
- Lors du Grand Jury RTL-LCI-Le Monde du 9 février, François Fillon, ministre des affaires sociales, a évoqué les pays de l'élargissement comme une source de délocalisations (au même titre que les « pays émergents »).

Médias

- Dans un tout autre domaine, en apparence marginal, signalons la préoccupation de TF1 à l'égard du trafic illégal d'animaux de compagnie en provenance des « pays de l'est », l'élargissement étant présenté comme un facteur aggravant.
- Le journal de la mi-journée d'Europe n°1 a invité le chef d'unité de la Commission, M. de Lobkowicz à répondre aux questions des auditeurs sur les droits des ressortissants des futurs Etats membres (libre circulation des personnes et des travailleurs), ainsi que sur les participation des 10 en passe d'adhérer à la zone euro et à l'espace Schengen
- Courrier International, en partenariat avec RFI, invite chaque mois un écrivain à la découverte des pays candidats (1^{ère} étape, Ljubljana avec la romancière Katarina Marincic (n°640 du 6 au 12 février).
- A partir du 24 février, une 2^{ème} « Semaine Elargissement » de RFI met la Pologne à l'honneur, à travers des témoignages et des aperçus divers (économie, politique, culture).

Mise en œuvre de la campagne d'information par la Représentation

- Institut des relations internationales et stratégiques : de manière à impliquer les lycéens et étudiants du Nord-Pas-de-Calais à la préparation des Journées européennes de Lille (qui se tiendront le 27 mars 2003), l'IRIS a organisé un concours de « fiches » de présentation des pays en passe d'adhérer. Les meilleures, sélectionnées par un jury auquel la Représentation a participé (19 février), seront publiées à l'occasion de la manifestation. Les lauréats se voient offrir par le conseil régional un voyage dans le pays qu'ils ont présenté, qui devrait donner lieu à un suivi dans la presse locale (cartes postales ou carnets de voyage...). La subvention communautaire trouverait donc un prolongement inattendu (hors budget initial). La priorité annoncée pour les actions impliquant les publics jeunes dans l'appel à propositions de la Représentation semble avoir joué un rôle d'aiguillon.
- Union paneuropéenne de France : une première réunion consacrée à « L'élargissement, une chance pour les entreprises françaises » s'est tenue à Caen le 31 janvier, en présence d'un public de plus de 150 personnes (élus locaux, responsables économiques et associatifs, représentants des pays candidats et de la Commission, étudiants). L'intervention du directeur de la société Vans-Théault (Manche), montrant par l'exemple les opportunités ouvertes pour les PME par les échanges avec les pays entrants, a été particulièrement remarquée.
- Force ouvrière : le deuxième séminaire de formation à destination des cadres syndicaux s'est tenu du 24 au 28 février (avec une intervention de M. Vaughan-Whitehead - DG Emploi).
- Assemblée des chambres françaises de commerce et d'industrie (ACFCI) : la campagne nationale de l'ACFCI se poursuit, avec une conférence-débat organisée à Lille (6 février), et la tenue, à Strasbourg les 12 et 13 février, d'un séminaire binational, à l'intention d'élus de chambres de commerce et d'industrie françaises et allemandes. La brochure sur l'élargissement prévue par le programme a été finalisée dans le courant du mois.

Mise en œuvre de la stratégie de communication du gouvernement

- « Rencontres pour l'Europe » : la ministre déléguée aux affaires européennes Noëlle Lenoir a entamé à Quimper (13 février) et Sarreguemines (21 février) les premières « Rencontres pour l'Europe », qui ont largement abordé le thème de l'Union élargie. Le ministre chypriote des affaires européennes a participé à la réunion de Quimper.
- Une brochure pédagogique sur l'élargissement, destinée au grand public, a été diffusée à partir du 6 février à 3 millions d'exemplaires (dont 2,3 millions dans les agences de La Poste). Les réseaux institutionnels et associatifs d'information sur l'Europe (dont *Sources d'Europe* et les relais et réseaux de la Commission) sont associés à la diffusion. L'opération est relayée par des affichettes apposés jusqu'au mois d'avril dans l'ensemble du réseau postal. Ces outils reprennent le visuel de la campagne d'affichage menée à la fin décembre dans les principales gares françaises en exécution de la convention liant le gouvernement et la Commission (crédits 2001).

Germany

Media

- A convergence study carried out by the German “DekaBank” did not draw much attention except for publication in the “FAZ”. It found that the convergence process in the Central and Eastern European accession candidate states was faltering, with positive developments only in Slovenia and Poland.
- Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger continued its series “The new EU countries“ with reports on Cyprus, Poland and Slovenia.
- The monthly magazine of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Reutlingen had the subject of “EU-enlargement to the East – chance and challenge for economy” as its focal theme, including a photo and parts of a speech of Commissioner Verheugen.

Information events and own initiatives

- On February 19, a panel discussion within the “Werkhallen-Talk” series took place at Henkel (chemical industry) in Genthin (*Land* of Brandenburg). The venue gathered about 120 people from the region, workers from the plant and local press. The president of Henkel Central Eastern Europe, a manager of a local engineering company, the chief of local Henkel worker’s council, a member of the European Parliament and a member of DG ENTR took part in the discussion.
- In the Bonn Representation again two seminars for two young German-Hungarian groups (40 participants each) took place, on the general subject of the European Union, held by members of *Team Europe*.
- On February 24, Commissioner Verheugen discussed with journalists and 120 participants from Hungary, Turkey and Germany within the series “Europagespräche auf dem Petersberg”, in co-operation with the TV channel Phoenix and radio station DeutschlandRadio, “Where are Europe’s frontiers?”
- The *Management Academy for Food, Agriculture and Forestry of the Bavarian Government* (Staatliche Führungsakademie für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten) organised in co-operation with the Commission’s Representation in Munich a conference on enlargement in Landshut on 20 February. The Bavarian Minister for Agriculture, Mr Miller, and other well-known contributors from Bavaria gave lectures on the topic “Bavaria within an enlarged Europe – demands on the administration of tomorrow”. Jochen Kubosch, Head of the Representation in Munich and Stefan Lehner, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Schreyer joined this event. About 160 experts and politicians, also from the Czech Republic inspired the panel. The two groups talked about the special demands on the agricultural administration and about the network administration for the European future. Petr Zimmermann, Chief magistrate of Pilsen and Reinhard Schick, Director of the Twinning-Project Prag offered interesting impulses.

- “Overcoming Boundaries - The EU Enlargement Process and Visions of Europe from a Women`s Perspective,” an international conference, organised by the *Women`s Academy Munich* took place from 21 to 23 February at the Academy of Franconia in Lichtenfels. Over a hundred participants from several European member states and candidate countries joined this event. Jochen Kubosch, Head of the Commission Representation in Munich inaugurated the conference. “Opportunities and Dangers for Women accompanying Eastward Enlargement of the European Union” were discussed in the ensuing panel. The discussion showed that there are still ongoing difficulties, especially in the candidate countries concerning prostitution and trade with women. On Saturday four workshops were held on the following topics: Labour Market and Social Politics, The Public Participation, Women in Rural Areas and Ecology, Human Rights. International multipliers especially from Eastern Europe (Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland) were able to insert their expertise. The last day tendered enough space for a lively panel discussion on the “Visions of Europe”.
- The Heinz-Schwarzkopf-Foundation organised on March 3rd a panel discussion with Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, member of the European Convention, and Lothar de Maizière, last Prime Minister of the GDR, as part of its series “Our future in Europe”. 120 mainly young people attended the event.

Grant Programme

- “Conscience for a Europe of tomorrow – chances and effects of the enlargement of the European Union” was the title of a project presented by the “*Institut für Internationale Zusammenarbeit des Deutschen Volkshochschulverbandes*” (Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association) on March 12, 2003. It was introduced by a member of the Bonn Representation, with 25 people from the nationwide Adults Education Centers. Several hundred Adult Education lecturers have been trained on the subject of EU enlargement in workshops in the last 6 months. The project is funded by the European Commission and the Federal Government Press Office.

Internet

Page Impressions: 27 873; Visits: 9260; Average number of guests per day: 330

Information centres and relays

- Carrefour Lueneburg organised a European Women's Conference together with the Office of Women's Affairs of Lüneburg County and the education and training centre (HVHS Barendorf). The title of that conference was "Women in Europe - equal opportunities everywhere?" with special regard to the accession countries and future member states. Involved were women and women`s organisations from Poland and Estonia as well as from the Netherlands, Spain, France and Sweden.
- Carrefour Lueneburg started a regional campaign on enlargement presenting the exhibition wall with information about enlargement. It is offered to schools, administration and organisations to present it to a wider public together with specific information material. Landkreis Harburg (14.02.- 28.02.) and Landkreis Rotenburg (03.03.- 21.03.) made use of this offer.

Other information activities or events

- From 4-7 March the “Arbeitnehmer-Zentrum Königswinter”, a Christian democrat funded institute for further education for employees, near Bonn, held a seminar on enlargement for employees interested in politics and Union work, title: “EU enlargement to the East- the decision has been taken.” About 20 participants.
- Also in Königswinter, a conference organised by the “Kulturstiftung der deutschen Vertriebenen” (Cultural Foundation of German displaced persons - from the Eastern territories after World War 2) took place, subject: “The European Union as a Community of Values”.

Information activities on the Convention

- The Final Conference of the Berlin Youth Convention took place in the “Berliner Abgeordnetenhaus” on February 25. Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, member of the Convention, discussed the Human Rights Charta with the participants, and the vice president of the “Berliner Abgeordnetenhaus”, Martina Michels, held a welcoming speech. The conference was attended by almost 200 people, Berliner Zeitung and a local TV station (Offener Kanal) reported about the event.
- From 25 to 26 February, The *Centre of Applied Political Research* (Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung) organised a round table conference in Munich on political education. Prof. Werner Weidenfeld, Director of the Centre opened this conference. Jochen Kubosch, Head of the Commission Representation in Munich, joined the panel and gave a lecture on the European Convent in general, the integration of topics concerning the youth and its realisation within the European White Paper. On 26 February a panel discussion was offered to the participants. Several contributors talked about the visions, perspectives for an education based more intensively on Europe.
- On March 12, 2003, the “Institut für Europäische Politik” organised a lunchtime conference with Michael Roth, member of the German Bundestag. Being involved in developing the “Berliner Entwurf” (draft of a European constitution by the SPD), he illustrated the draft and explained it to an audience of 80 people, mainly experts.

Greece

Press Releases

- Enlargement publications: Text of the Accession Treaty and the imminent referenda; Discussion on Enlargement by PASOK Youth Organization; Bulgaria’s accession process; Candidate countries’ development under accession in the EU; Enlargement consequences for Greece; Cost of enlargement; Publication of research on enlargement by the EKEPP

Information activities related to the convention

- the Future of Europe special web page is now completed. This page will be found in the central representation site (<http://www.europa.eu.int/hellas>) aiming at direct and comprehensive information on activities related to the Convention.

Hungary

- The government's communication activities includes two telephone numbers for citizens to use, one free, run by the MoFA and one a local call number run by the Public Foundation (EUKK). The Foundation also unveiled its poster campaign and a series of TV spots. The Ministry of Agriculture has launched a proactive campaign for farmers. The MoFA is publishing a 160-page book covering all the chapters of the acquis.

Public Opinion

- According to the survey conducted by Gallup Research Institute on a sample of 1009 people, between 6-13 February 2003, 59% would vote yes at the referendum on Hungary's accession, 16% would vote against, 15% are undecided and 10% are Decided not to go voting. 55% of the respondents were Decided to participate at the referendum. Amongst them, 78% are for Hungary's EU accession, 15% are against and 7% are undecided.
- According to Szonda-Ipsos's survey also conducted in February 2003 on behalf of the MoFA, 63% of the population are Decided to participate at the referendum. Amongst them, 71% (+6% comparing to January results) would vote yes for the accession at the referendum, 14% (-6% comparing to January results) would vote no, and 15% undecided . Answering to the question "How would you vote on a referendum about Hungary's accession to the EU?" 60%(+4%) of the respondents said yes, 15% (-7%) said no, and 25% were undecided . There is also a slight increase in the data concerning the question : will it be advantageous for Hungary to join the EU. 53% (+8% comparing January results) thought, that yes, it would be and 26% thought it would be disadvantageous.

Press releases

In January Press Releases were issued on the following subjects:

- Commission presents its proposal to adapt the financial framework for enlargement
- Article in Nepszabadsag published yesterday: this is not the view of the European Commission
- EU Commissioner Erkki Liikanen visit Hungary on 24 February 2003
- Mr. Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission came for a one-day official visit to Hungary on 27 February 2003
- A Constitution for Europe: Romano Prodi consults the public

- Commission adopts favourable opinion on the accession of ten candidate countries

Press conferences

- Joint Press conference of Commissioner Erkki Liikanen and Minister Kálmán Kovács
- Joint Doorstep of President Prodi and PM Medgyessy
- Joint Doorstep of Com. Solbes and Foreign Affairs Min. Kovacs

Projects, co-operation with the media

- Com. Liikanen's interview in ' Figyelo' (business weekly)
- Com. Solbes' interview in ' Vilaggazdasag' (business daily)
- Com. Solbes' interview in ' HVG' (economic and political weekly)
- Com. Solbes' interview in Reuters
- Com. Solbes' interview in Duna TV (public TV)
- President Prodi's interview in Magyar Hirlap (national daily); in TV 2 (commercial TV); in Duna TV (Public TV); in MTV (public TV); in RTL Klub (commercial TV)

Information events and initiatives

- Information events for pensioners:
 - 21 February 2003: An EU information forum was held in Budapest for the leaders of pensioners' organisations. They raised questions on how accession might change their lives, or advantages and disadvantages.
 - 24 February 2003: The Heves County European Information Point organised an EU forum for pensioners, and invited the Delegation as well to participate in this event and to deliver a lecture on accession. There were a lot of people, not only pensioners, but others who was interested about EU-accession. The local TV made an interview with the Delegation's representative.
 - 28 February 2003: The Veszprém European Information Point organised an EU forum for pensioners with the participation of the Delegation and the Deputy State Secretary of the Social Ministry. About 170 people came to listen to the speakers. They also asked a lot of questions, they were very interested about this subject. It was a very well organised forum.
- Women in Hungary – Women in Europe
 - On 26th of February, a roundtable discussion took place with 50 participants in Tapolca (Western Hungarian) Region.

- The informal round-table discussion panel involves women with different background – politician, business sector, historian and lawyer. Several questions are raised about the status of women in Hungary and in the EU, social rights, birth giving, labour rights, etc. The Delegation organises the event and moderates it in co-operation with the MoFA, which is also present.
- As a special meeting, Ms Zita Gurmai, member of the Socialist Party organised a conference on Hungary's integration for the 461 women mayors on the 6th of February. Out of the 3200 mayors only those are women. Main subjects were: women in politics, EU-integration, equal opportunities and social rights. As a follow-up of the event, an information package containing publications on the EU and the accession was sent to all participants by the Delegation.
- Pest County organised a meeting with the participation of all European officers from all 19 counties. On this occasion the main accent was on the preparation for the EU-membership, including all kinds of tender opportunities (town twinning...).
- On the 11th of February, for the 9th time since last year the delegation organised the informal roundtable-discussion with farmers to discuss their fears and questions concerning accession. The event was organised with the co-operation of the European information Point of Pécs (South Transdanubia region) in the Europe House of Pécs with more than 100 farmers. Questions were more detailed and farmers seemed more prepared. Several interviews were done on the event. Two regional dailies, two radios and two television stations (Pécs TV and the regional branch of the national television – MTV1) reported on the event.
- The Delegation was requested to give help in training and giving information for the penalty execution institutions. There are 18 000 prisoners in Hungary in the 38 institutions, looked after by 7 000 officers. From the 18 000 there are 5 000 which still have their voting rights. (prisoners on remand). In the framework of this, LK gave a presentation for the directors of institution in the morning of the 26th in Pilisvörösvár. (Pest County) The organisation will take the assistance and help of the European information Points network from now on.

Products

- A new title was published in 25.000 copies in the FAQ leaflets series, dealing with the European Convention; it describes the objectives, the structure and the operation of the Convention as well as the European Commission's role in the work of the Convention. The leaflets are distributed to different information providers, events, training.
- The Delegation Decided to publish its FAQ leaflet on Hungary's accession to the EU in a Roma language, Lovari, in co-operation with the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities. The leaflet will be provided to Roma community houses, schools as well as the other EU information providers, libraries.
- Production of two Commission brochures in Hungarian started in December: How the Commission works? and Towards a knowledge-based information society. Both brochures will come out in 10.000 copies.

Information Centre

- Visitors of EUIC in February: 1299
- In the framework of the monthly series “Let’s talk about Europe” the topic of the February event was the “2003 ACCESS Programme”. Around 40 NGOs attended this event, the first information event for the programme in 2003, followed by 18 information sessions in the country side.
- EUIC hosted a journalist conference of a group of Spanish journalists being on a study trip to Hungary, organised by the Maastricht European Journalism Centre.
- EUIC hosted a press conference and round table discussion between economists from research institutes and academic institutions with Commissioner Solbes.
- EUIC had a stand at the Mayors’ Conference organised by the Prime Ministers Office. 3200 mayors were invited to meet President Prodi.
- The Centre received student group from Public Affairs Institute
- Lectures at events: opening of SME Conference; Women’s Forum in Pecs; Women’s’ forum in Tapolca; Bekessy School, Budapest; seminar for librarians in Kiskörös;
- IC staff participated in: Jour Fixe; Conference on 6th Framework Programme; educational conference; Pensioners Forum; agricultural exhibition; Conference on EU Communication;
- Publications: preparation of the Centre’s events calendar for March; revision of fact sheets; up-dating of “EU tender possibilities”.
- IC Director gave interviews to a local Budapest TV station and the Spanish TV.

Other information activities or events

- In order to show the national and political consensus in Hungary about the country’s accession, a road show has started in Hungary with the participation of all 4 parliamentary parties. One of the patrons’ of the event is the Delegation and supported it with information materials. The first kick-off meeting took place on the 11th of November and was followed by several ones in November and December. In 2003 50 new venues are foreseen for this event.
- The Jour Fixe of February was held on e-Europe. The moderator Mr. János Kis, Editor in chief of euroAstra web-magazine, who is also an expert on informatics. The participants of the debate was: Mr. Csaba Varga, President of the Institute for Strategic Research, Mr. Vilmos Bognár, IST expert of the Ministry of Education and Mr. Róbert Pintér, sociologist, the Information Society Research Institute. Public speeches given by information staff members
- 6 February Summit of the officers of county local governments responsible for foreign affairs, Budapest

- 11 February Farmer's forum in Pécs
- 13 February Women Mayors National Conference, Budapest
- 14 February EU Forum for Women, Nyíregyháza
- 20 February I. Miskolc Media Conference, Miskolc
- 21 February EU forum for Pensioners, Budapest
- 24 February Meeting of the Council of Elderly, Budapest
- 24 February EU forum for pensioners, Eger
- 26 February Exhibition and lectures on "What to know about EU", Nagykanizsa
- 28 February Model European Parliament, Budapest,
- 28 February EU forum for pensioners, Veszprém

Grant Scheme Launched

- Aware that many projects are designed and launched by the media, regional and local authorities, civil society and special interest groups, the Delegation launched a grant scheme in order to finance activities under the following activities: 1) Audio-visual sponsorships; 2) Information activities for the youth; 3) Convention on the future of the Europe and Referendum on accession; 4) EU support for journalists; 5) Support for cultural programmes, events. The Delegation will support 14 projects amounting to €204.999.

Italy

Médias

- Il Messaggero dans l'article "Elargissement de l'Europe à l'Est: alarme des partenaires de la Méditerranée" souligne que les 12 pays partenaires de la Méditerranée, intéressés par le programme Meda 2, craignent qu'à la suite de l'adhésion de nouveaux pays membres de l'Union européenne l'engagement de l'Ue à leur égard ne puisse se modifier (25.2.2003)
- Il Sole 24 Ore dans l'article "Attelage à l'euro, les doutes de l'Est" met en évidence les craintes des pays candidats quant à l'opportunité d'accrocher leur devises à l'euro dans le Sme-2, mécanisme d'échange dont ils devraient faire partie après l'adhésion à l'Ue, en vue de leur future adhésion à la zone Euro. Dans "Le match compétitif" on examine les avantages qu'auront ces pays suite à la participation au Sme-2. (26.2.2003)
- Dans "Lemierre (Berd): «L'Est dans l'euro mais sans brûler les étapes»", Il Sole 24 Ore reporte les déclarations de M. Jean Lemierre, Président de la Berd, selon lequel il ne faut pas trop se presser à admettre les nouveaux membres de l'Ue

dans l'Union monétaire et il faut que tous les paramètres prévus par le Traité de Maastricht soient réellement respectés. (27.2.2003)

- Le Corriere della Sera dans l'article "Assez avec les subventions agricoles, dit M. Chirac. Puis il change d'idée", souligne l'attitude peu claire de la France à l'égard de la réforme de la Politique agricole commune. La Stampa dans "Test décisif pour l'avenir de la Grande Europe" affirme que l'élargissement est un banc d'essai fondamental pour les relations politiques et économiques entre la vieille et la nouvelle Europe. (3.3.2003)
- Il Sole 24 Ore dans "«Elargissement de l'Ue au Sud et pas seulement à l'Est»" reporte les déclarations du Président de la Chambre des Députés, M. Pierferdinando Casini, selon lequel l'élargissement de l'Ue doit se diriger aussi vers le Sud, aux autres partenaires de la Méditerranée. (4.3.2003)
- Le Corriere della Sera dans l'article "Europe 2020: 34, pas un pays de plus" souligne que l'on ne prévoit pas, jusqu'en 2020, d'autres élargissements dans l'agenda de l'Ue, si ce n'est l'élargissement éventuel aux 6 pays balkaniques, ce qui permettrait d'envisager une Europe à 34. L'on ne prévoit pas d'autres élargissements au Sud ou à l'Est. (5.3.2003)
- Il Sole 24 Ore dans "Frontières plus larges à coups de référendum" met en évidence que dans les nouveaux pays membres va commencer le tour de force des référendums fixés pour l'adhésion à l'Ue, dont on ne peut pas prévoir les résultats; dans l'article "L'élargissement coûte 25 euros chacun" l'on examine les coûts que chaque citoyen de l'Ue devra payer à cause de l'élargissement. (6.3.2003)

Latvia

Public opinion

- Latest public opinion poll (Latvijas fakti, February) data shows that the level of the support to the Latvia's accession to the EU has remain stable with small increase of the support.

Media

Main topics in media in February concerning European affairs:

- Public information about the EU. The Management group for the development and implementation of government information strategy in the pre-referendum period has started its work. At the beginning of March this group has to come out with the Strategy and work programme for the government communication programme in the pre-referendum period.
- Further discussions on the sugar production sector in Latvia and government policy were linked to accession to the EU.

- Many Russian-language newspapers placed articles about the future of non-citizens of Latvia in the EU.
- The research provided by European Commission showing that the burden of taxes in Latvia is among highest of all candidate countries received large publicity.
- Language specialists discussed the possibility to call the euro in Latvian not “eiro” as it is already usual but give Latvian radical and it call “eira”.
- The announcement of European Movement in Latvia of beginning of their pre-referendum campaign was noted in many articles.
- Recruitment plants of European Commission received considerable media attention.
- The newspaper of the government “Latvijas Vēstnesis” has started to publish monthly insert on EU affaires “Eiropas Vēstis” (European Message)

Press releases

- February 3, Seminar for owners of Cafes
- February 4, Regional information day (RID) in Rēzekne
- February 12, RID in Krimulda
- February 14, New brochure “Useful to know”
- February 14, EC looks for conference interpreters
- February 21, European Dialogues
- February 24, New brochure “10 wrong statements about the EU”
- February 20, Employment plans of European Commission
- February 26, Information day at Inčukalna Library
- February 26, RID in Tērvete
- February 27, Seminar for furniture producers at EUIC

Information events and initiatives

- Informal meeting with journalists on situation of non-citizens after accession to the EU was organised February 20. Discussion on the rights of non-citizens after accession was held.
- Participation in exhibition and fairs: Travelling exhibition about the European Union has been transferred to Jēkabpils. Next town – Talsi. The exhibition will be

used as visual material in the fair School 2003/Book 2003. Planning participation of the EUIC in the yearly fair “Book 2003, School 2003” in March 6-9.

- Regional Information days and events in Rēzekne, Garkalne, Jēkabpils, Krimulda, Vecumnieki, Iecava, Inčukalns, Stalpe and Liepāja have taken place in February.
- Regular Europe Day has taken place in Jekabpils on 12.02.2003. It has been organised in co-operation with European Integration Bureau and Non Governmental Organisations. EUIC have organized exhibition “European Union – how it works?” which stayed all February in the municipality of Jekabpils. EUIC also participated in the Euro bus tour through the Jekabpils region and organized an opening of the Europe Day, which gathered many representatives of the local media.
- Regional event in Rēzekne on 5.02.2003 have gathered many entrepreneurs from Rezekne city and District of Rezekne. T.Volkova – professor from Latvia Bank University addressed entrepreneurs on how Latvia will benefit from the EU enlargement and what will be the consequences if in the referendum Latvian society would vote NO. I. Smildziņa from Ministry of Environment informed about requirements in the sphere of environment. After the presentation discussion revealed main concerns for the entrepreneurs of Rezekne – 1. There are no government programmes to help prepare for membership. 2. Whether the money, which will be offered through Structural Funds, will reach Latgale. 3. Some entrepreneurs were sceptical about Latvia’s membership in the EU, arguing, “We will not be ready, and better wait for some while”.
- Riga Region Section of the Pensioner’s Federation of Latvia meeting has taken place on 11.02.2003 in Garkalne Municipality. Future cooperation between Latvian Pensioners Federation and the EUIC was discussed; Pensioner’s Federation express their readiness to be actively involved in information activities.
- Information event in the Vecumnieki Secondary School have taken place on 18.02.2003. Pupils from the last class, teachers and representatives from local farmers were among the participants of the event. Basic information about history of the EU, policies and enlargement was presented at the beginning of the event. In the Questions and Answers session questions about national identity and language, as well as questions about social issues (pensions etc.) were most frequently asked.
- Information event in Iecava Secondary School have taken place on 20.02.2003. Event was organized in cooperation with the library of Vecumnieki. After the presentation questions followed on what will be the consequences if in the referendum Latvian society would vote NO. What will be the possibilities for the youth? What is the public opinion in other countries and how EU may help to fight corruption in Latvia?
- Information event in Stalpe Primary School have taken place in 13.02.2003. Basic information about history of the EU, policies and enlargement of EU as well as information about EU member states and candidate countries was presented to the pupils, teachers and representatives of the local society. Attitude towards EU at the beginning of the event was very sceptical, but at the end many have

admitted that the information have changed some of the arguments. Despite that pupils of the primary school are not the main target audience such an events are very useful because in such a small places as Stalpe events in the schools are important for the whole village. In many cases these are the first times someone comes from RIGA and discusses important issues.

- Information Day in Inčukalns library has taken place on 27.02.2003 in co-operation with the local library. Agriculture and the fear that the EU is the same as USSR were among the questions posed by the audience. Discussion about the role of the municipality in the case if Latvia will become the member of the EU also was active and many questions were asked.
- Conference at the Liepaja 2nd Secondary School have taken place on 21.02.2003. Conference was the final event of the Project Week about EU. Representatives from the 8 Schools have taken part in the Conference. I. Stepina from the ECD informed about the Free Movement of Labour and A.Lejas-sausa from the Ministry of Education informed about the Education Programmes of the EU. Prospects of work in the EU as well as more concrete information about EU funded education programmes were posed after the presentations. In the discussion after the conference teachers appreciated the presence of the lecturers, as it is rather difficult to get someone from the Riga to such a conferences.
- Meeting with members of Rural Women Association of Latvia have taken place on 19.02.2003 in Krimulda. EUIC work programme was presented and future co-operation was discussed.
- Information project contest
 - Taking into account that the project contest organised last year was among the most successful projects implemented under the programme, providing positive impression and involving many people and institutions as well as attracting media attention, it was Decided to organise the project contest under this work programme as well.
- Travelling Europe InfoHouse
 - A set of street activities will be organised in regions during summer season (starting from May). Europe House will consist of inflatable walls and roof with European Union and Latvian symbols on them. In Travelling Europe House info stands and wide information about different EU topics will be available.
- Spring Day in Europe
 - The Spring day in Europe is an initiative launched by a group of member of the European Convention and of its Presidium, to involve secondary schools from all member states and candidate countries in the debate on the future of Europe. Spring Day events are planned on March 21.
 - The activities of Spring Day has been initiated in co-operation with European Integration Bureau. The invitation letter has been prepared and sent out to

Secondary schools. Until the February 21 more than 40 schools have applied for the participation in the Spring Day activities.

- Networking
 - Meetings with the representatives of the European Integration Bureau to discuss organisation of Spring Day in Europe (March 21), establishment of Team Europe in Latvia and Europe week activities were organised.

Internet

- It must be noted that in February the highest number ever of visitors of the Web site was stated. The rise of the number (February 6030) of the visitors mainly is because of the NGO contest, tender for printing of publications and the tender for Phare Small Project Programme were announced, thus the materials of the contest and tenders were available on the web site.

Products

- Supplement to major Latvian business newspaper ‘‘Dienas bizness’’
 - Since September 2001 a regular monthly 4-page supplement on European Union has been published in co-operation with leading business newspaper ‘‘Dienas bizness’’. Every supplement is devoted to a different topic and includes column: Should Latvia join the EU? ‘‘Pros and contra’’ where influential businessmen are defining their position on above mentioned question. Since September 2001, 18 supplements have been published, total media contacts ~ 850 000 have been reached. Supplement published in February 24 on two topics: Public relations and milk production.
- An insert in the largest Russian writing newspaper ‘‘Subbota’’ was prepared and distributed in 53 000 copies on February 20. The insert consists of text originally produced for regional exhibitions. Following the publication the EUIC has received several phone calls with requests for additional information.

Information Centre

- Regular European dialogues on the topic ‘‘ Education in Latvia and Europe’’ have taken place at the EUIC on 24 February. Invited speakers: I. Lacis - Rector of University of Latvia and P. Cimdins - Rector of Vidzemes High school presented their views about the topic. Discussion was introduced and it was lead by the philosopher I. Suvajevs.
- Seminar for owners of Cafeterias about EU and Discussions on various aspects of EU integration have been organised in EUIC on 4.02.2003. This was the second seminar for owners of Cafeterias organised by EUIC. The first seminar had enormous interest from both café owners and media. Event could be characterised as very successful because it gave very clear answer whether EU norms will cause closure of many cafeterias in Riga and Latvia. 99% of all necessary EU legislation is implemented by the government of Latvia in the field of sanitary norms for

public catering – that means that no additional norms will be introduced after Latvia's accession to the EU.

- Lecture about Negotiation chapters “What has been agreed – Agriculture” have taken place on 4.02.2003 and lecture about Social Policy and Employment on 25.02.2003, in co-operation with European Integration Bureau. Representatives from Ministry of Agriculture presented the results of the Negotiation Chapter – agriculture. Representatives from Ministry of Welfare presented the Social Policy and Employment in EU. Main target group for this seminar was organisers of Europe Day's in the regions. The idea is to organise regularly such an events in order to help to prepare Europe Day organisers for discussions and lectures in the regions.
- Seminar for Aizkraukle Adults Education Centre was organised at on 21.02.2003 to inform representatives of non-governmental organizations from Aizkraukle. The visit to the British Council, NGOs centre and visit to the EUIC was organised. After the visits and presentation in the EUIC lively discussion have taken place about the problems which could affect NGOs and Local municipalities in the light of the funding available from EU in the future. The main problem is co-financing. Already now there are some NGO and municipalities who do not to take part in the project because of the lack of resources. There is also lack of experience in writing the projects; therefore the idea of organising some seminars especially about projects was expressed.
- Seminar for teachers of visual arts on topic “Current topics about Latvia and EU” have been organised in EUIC on 30.01.2003
- An informal seminars was held in co-operation with Association of Teachers of Visual Arts
- 15 information events were organised for schools both in the EUIC and in the schools during the February. February is the month when schools organise project week. Many schools decided to organise them about EU. Presentations on the EUIC, history, institutions and policies of the EU and Latvia and EU relations were presented in all events for the pupils. After the presentations many questions were asked not only about the topics relevant to the education and youth perspectives in EU but also on the topics like agriculture, free movement of labour and social issues.

Lithuania

Public opinion

- According to the opinion poll conducted by Vilmorus in February, 68% of people would vote in favour of accession if a referendum were held in February.

Press releases

- Participation of the Information centre at the Baltic Book Fair and presentation of the film and newly-published encyclopaedia (a special event was organised – see the details below)
- Signature of Financing Memorandum for 12 MEUR financial support for implementation of the new system of FTD procedures of Russian citizens through Lithuania to and from Kaliningrad.

Press conferences

- After the signature of Financial Memorandum, a press conference took place at the Ministry of Finance.

Joint projects/media projects

- The joint project with the commercial LNK television continues, as foreseen in the Work Programme. From Monday to Thursday, an insert “The Europeans” covering EU issues is included into the evening news release of the channel. The programme is trying find interesting angles of the EU issues, which are usually not covered in the routine news programmes.
- The joint project with the National Radio, the most popular radio station Lithuania is on-going, EU-related inserts are introduced into 5 already existing programmes: for rural population, early morning programme “Native land”; special morning programme “Morning sounds”; programme for minorities in Russian; Cultural programme; Midday programme “Day of Lithuania”.
- Head of Delegation gave an interview to the local newspaper for Polish minority
- Head of Delegation gave several interviews to the national media.
- Mr Colom i Naval, Vice-president of the European Parliament, visited Lithuania on 19 March and gave interviews to the National (Public) Radio and LNK TV.
- County Information Centres have started implementing their plans of action for the first half of the year 2003. (discussions, lectures, seminars, public events, etc.)
- Public libraries have started various activities - they receive support for events in more than 40 regions. Public libraries were encouraged to co-operate with local municipalities, NGOs, community leaders, opinion leaders and academia.
- A monthly supplement on EU matters, issued in Braille will be presented in the international conference, organised by Open Society Lithuania Foundation.

Information and other events

- A seminar on EU support allocated and to be allocated to Lithuania and, in particular, to Visaginas was organised in Visaginas, the Ignalina NPP town on 5 March. More than 100 representatives of NGOs, town municipalities, INPP, business community of Visaginas and other interested people were invited to attend the seminar. Representatives of the Commission as well as the Lithuanian

Government and ministries presented information on EU support in general as well as specific EU programmes, rules of application, preparations needed to comply with the rules, timing of various programmes and projects and other practical information. The participants had time allocated for discussions and were able to get answers to various questions. All presentations were distributed as handouts to the participants. Simultaneous interpretation from/to Lithuanian, Russian and English ensured a success, as most residents are Russian-speakers.

- A seminar for regional journalists was organised together with the European Committee under the Government. During the seminar, journalists were informed by the Government representatives about the preparations for the referendum, negotiations results in agriculture and other areas as well as preparations for the structural funds. The Delegation presented the latest information products and the project for the regional media.
- Several years ago, the development of popular tourists guides from In Your Pocket series started in Lithuania. The network covers many cities of Europe, including the Baltic states, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, etc. In order to promote the INPP city Visaginas, a joint project “Visaginas in Your Pocket” was launched by various partners. The Delegation has contributed by publishing an article about the EU support to Lithuania and advertising EU information network in Lithuania. The publication is being distributed.
- The Delegation’s Information Centre presented its latest products, information sources and other resources at the Baltic Book Fair at the end of February. The Information Centre had a special stand and distributed information, organised quizzes for the visitors, answered questions during the 4 days of the exhibition. Volunteers and students were invited to help coping with the flows of the visitors.
- A special event was organised to present the newly-published encyclopaedia “European Union and Beyond” and the film on the EU support “Europokeris”, which took place in a special area for the events in the framework of the Baltic Book Fair. About 200 participants attended the event in which the author of the book and the film-makers presented their products.
- The book fair is very popular in Lithuania and is visited not only by Vilnius residents but attracts the people from all over the country. The Delegation’s stand was visited by the President, Prime Minister and Seimas Chairman.

Referendum activities

- Press and Information Officer of the EC Delegation has been invited as a member into the pre-referendum working group of the Government. The group’s task is to co-ordinate the pre-referendum information activities of various institutions. Regular weekly meetings take place in which the information about the Delegation’s activities is presented to the participants and the information about the Government activities is collected and later circulated among the Delegation’s staff.
- Head of Delegation and Referendum Task Force (an ad hoc structure of the Delegation for pre-referendum work) had a meeting with Director General of the

European Committee under the Government P. Austrevicius and Public Information Unit of the Committee. The meeting aimed at improving mutual co-ordination and co-operation.

- Head of Delegation had a meeting with Chairman of Seimas A. Paulauskas. The Chairman was informed about the regular information activities of the Delegation.
- Press and Information Officer took part in the meeting with the Mayor of Vilnius A. Zuokas. The information about the Delegation's initiative to increase the turnout at the referendum via the co-operation with the youth NGOs was presented. Vilnius Municipality has allocated some budget for the referendum campaign and intends to hold a series of events and implement some projects. One of them is to establish temporary post offices in the supermarkets for voting by mail. [NB: according to the Lithuanian Law on Referendum, people can vote via post one week before the referendum, but not on the days of referendum].
- The Delegation prepared and the Head of Delegation has presented to the Member State Embassies the package of information about the preparations for the referendum. This information included the consolidated table of events, the opinion poll results and the information on the call for proposals for NGO. The embassies were invited to co-operate and participate in the events (seminars, lectures, visits to the regions). Besides direct requests received by the embassies from various project organisers, the Delegation and the Information Centre are trying to help establish contacts with the embassies in order to ensure their participation in the events.

Publications

- The encyclopaedia for young people "99 terms: EU and beyond" has been printed and its distribution has started. It is being sent to each school and each library of Lithuania. The encyclopaedia in CD ROM format has been produced.
- In order to provide the Russian minority with EU information, it was Decided to produce "Europe from A to Z" in Russian. The book was published by the Latvian Delegation, so we have asked for an additional number of copies to be printed and delivered to Lithuania. Part of books was distributed to the participants of the seminar in Visaginas.

Information Centre

- The Information Centre is functioning and providing usual walk-in services and answering phone, fax and e-mail inquiries. The Centre is mainly involved in maintaining relations with the EU information network. They have participated in several events where they delivered lectures, answered question, etc. The main event was the Baltic Book Fair (see above), in which many volunteers have also helped. The Information Centre is also very actively involved into co-ordination of events and activities of NGOs (see above about the tender for NGOs). It should also be noticed that the number of visitors has significantly increase during the recent weeks.

Other information activities

- The Government has launched its pre-referendum information campaign. Two companies – a public relation company and an advertising agency – have been selected for the implementation of the campaign. The campaign strategy and plan have been presented to the top officials of the Country [the Council, led by the Chairman of the Seimas].
- Several media (TV stations and radio stations, newspapers and magazines) started a public action aiming at increasing the turnout in the referendum. They invited all the media to join the initiative and to do their best in promoting the importance of the decision to be taken at the referendum for the future of the country.

Luxembourg

- L'appel d'offres pour la campagne d'annonces dans les médias luxembourgeois lancée par le Service Information et Presse, a été clôturé et l'agence « Concept Factory » a été choisie d'un commun accord pour mettre en oeuvre la campagne à partir du mois de mai.
- La Représentation publique régulièrement des communiqués de presse sur le thème de l'élargissement, lorsque de nouvelles informations sont disponibles, communiqués adaptés aux besoins spécifiques des médias luxembourgeois et diffusés également aux décideurs politiques, économiques et sociaux.

Etat de l'opinion publique

- Par rapport à l'Eurobaromètre précédent (57.1), effectué en mai 2002, les résultats relevés au Luxembourg ont changé: le pourcentage des partisans de l'élargissement à tous les pays européens a augmenté de 14% à 15%. Le pourcentage des personnes s'opposant à un élargissement a légèrement augmenté au Luxembourg, passant de 17% à 18%, alors qu'au niveau communautaire, il a baissé, passant de 21% à 19%.

Malta

Public opinion

- The most important recent poll was that carried out by the Sunday Times in January. This poll shows that the majority of the Maltese consider themselves to be adequately informed about the effects of Malta joining the EU. In fact, as many as 70.3% stated that they felt informed while the remaining 29.7% stated that they did not feel informed. Women (73.2%) registered a relatively higher level of 'being informed' than men (67.3%).
- The poll indicates that a relative majority of 47.7% of the Maltese would vote for joining the EU. Of the rest, 22.3% unequivocally would not vote in favour of

Malta joining the EU, while 6% did not wish to indicate their preference. Another 22.3% were still undecided while 1.7% would abstain.

Media

- Two meetings were held with the editors of the main English Language newspapers and their political reporters. In the run-up to the Referendum the English language press adopted a very pro-EU stance. This was however counteracted by the Maltese press which concentrated on the 'partnership' option.
- The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) made substantial use of the material provided to them by the Delegation in a series of programmes and debates on the EU. The programmes were centred on the institutions and the various policy areas with a priority given to farming, fishing and the regional policy.

Press Releases

- Commission acts to improve monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions (5.02)
- Commissioner Diamantopoulou launches round table in *Islamophobia* (5.02)
- Natura 2000 - Frequently asked questions (6.02)
- Commission's proposal to adapt the financial framework for enlargement (11.02)
- Statement on Iraq - Commissioner Poul Nielson at the European Parliament (12.02)
- Twinning Maritime Safety (14.02)
- Conclusions of the European Council's extraordinary meeting on the Iraqi crisis (18.02)
- Recruitment of officials from future Member States: press release + Neil Kinnock's speech + Communication from the Commission concerning staff recruitment (19.02)
- Launch of a quiz on the Delegation's website (19.02)
- Commission adopts favorable opinion on the accession of ten candidate countries (19.02)
- OLAF re-enforces fight against fraud in the candidate countries (20.02)
- FMD control concerns cause EU to ban beef imports from Paraguay (20.02)
- Announcement of a Press Conference by the Head of Delegation (21.02)
- EU and Morocco strengthen their relations (24.02)

Information Events

Date	Activity	Organiser
31 January		
01 / 2 February	Farming Sector - Gozo	Farmers Organisations
04 February	Cost of non-membership	METCO
04 February	Workers and the EU	UHM
04 February Association	Tourism	Malta Hotels and Restaurants
05 February	Regional Policy Seminar	MIC-Regional Policy
07 February	EU'S Financial Services/Welfare Reform International Financial Services	
08 February	Fishing Sector and the EU	Fishing Co-operatives
15 February	Environment and the EU	Nature Trust
20 February	Results of the Negotiations - Gozo Malta-EU Information Centre	
23 February Union	Small Business and the EU	General Retailers and Traders
03/04 March	Transport and the EU	Malta Transport Authority

Internet

- A quiz was launched to increase the number of hits. It appears that the majority of the visits to the site are from individuals outside Malta.

Products

- Key information products of the Delegation are the Newsletter, the website and videos. The Newsletter is a bimonthly issue both in Maltese and English.

Information Centre

- The Malta-EU Info Centre (MIC) a body funded by the Maltese Government undertakes a wide range of information activities in all branches of the media and through the organisation of local events. The Delegation supports MIC financially some of these activities. MIC recently opened an antenna in Gozo and continues to be the prime source of information on the EU.

Other Information activities

- The Maltese Government's information strategy is implemented by MIC (see above). The information on the EU provided by MIC is of high quality and the channels through which it distributes this information are very appropriate for the country. Other bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Industry also organise information activities.

Portugal

Media

- Twenty-three **articles** related to enlargement were published in the national newspapers. The articles covered the following subjects: the Croatian demand for accession to the EU; interview with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and analysis of the relations between Poland and the USA and Poland and the EU; the referenda that will take place in future member States; the results of a research study on the impact of enlargement in terms of financial movements; the Portuguese support to the anticipation of complete free movement of workers from future member States; the Cypriot issue including Declarations of the Turkish Cypriot leader; interviews with Commissioner Verheugen during his visit to Portugal.
- In the period analysed, the **television** stations have broadcast 6 pieces on enlargement issues as part of their main evening news. The **national radios** transmitted 13 pieces on enlargement. The most relevant issue related to enlargement treated in audio-visual media was the consequences to the future of a Common Security and Foreign Policy of the division in Europe in what concerns the US-Iraqi conflict. The divergence between UK and France and Germany is the most visible aspect of the division, but Portuguese radio and TV have also stressed the fact that most of the future member States are also supporting the US position.

Projects/co-operation with media

- All **local radio** projects financed by the European Commission are already being carried out. On the whole about 70 radio programmes were transmitted on 14 local radio stations.

Products

- Two editions of the electronic newsletter produced by the Representation have been released to the regional press, local radios and information relays.

Information Centre

- As for the projects selected after the two calls for proposals in 2002 directed to generalist relays and business related relays, the Azores Carrefour organised three information sessions in the island Graciosa (3-5 Feb). In Alentejo, the Carrefour of Elvas has concluded the preparation work and launched the information sessions directed to children from 6 to 11 years. In the period analysed by this report 12 events were organised in small villages of that region.

United Kingdom

Media

- Press coverage: EU enlargement has had coverage in the UK national newspapers during February mainly in relation to the positions taken on military action against Iraq.
- Away from Iraq, there was coverage in the national press of Poland's planned "social pact" (FT, 11/02/03) which coincided with a visit to the UK by Deputy Prime Minister Kolodko). Other issues making the news in February were the Greek Cypriot Presidential elections (FT, The Times, 17/02/03), the importance of the Danube waterway post-Enlargement (FT, 24/02/03) and the UK move to hand back part of the sovereign base areas in Cyprus (Independent, 25/02/03).
- On 27 February, The Guardian covered the Parliament's All Party Group on Roma Affairs informal report. On this and the final day of the month, there was also coverage of the extension to the deadline for the Annan Plan on Cyprus (The Guardian, The Times, FT).

Information Events & Initiatives

The following enlargement-related events have taken place in the UK during February:

- 6/02/03 Commissioner Verheugen speech at the London School of Economics followed by dinner with the Westminster All-Party Enlargement Group
- 10/02/03 Visit of Grzegorz Kolodko the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland to London
- 10/02/03 Visit of Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan to London
- 18/02/03 Lithuanian national day (reception and concert)
- 19/02/03 Visit of the Maltese Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami to London
- 21/02/03 European Parliament Regional Press Briefing in Leicester (East Midlands)
- 24/02/03 Independence day of Estonia (reception)
- 26/02/03 "Securing the New European Environment: The Future of EU Enlargement and Integration" – Federal Trust seminar at the Polish Embassy
- 27/02/03 "Enlargement – an opportunity to be seized" speech by Europe Minister Denis MacShane at Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce (also visited Lincoln)

- 28/02/03 Denis MacShane launches Sheffield Europe Week on enlargement
- 28/02/03 Centre for Reform “Who will say ‘No thanks’ to the EU?” seminar

Events funded under the Enlargement Communications Strategy

Further to the Call for Proposals published on 10/10/02, six projects are now underway:

- London 3-4 July: International seminar and creation of a trans-European network among Member State and Candidate Country parliamentarians (Chatham House);
- Regions: Enlargement publications and seminars in Cardiff, Leeds, Maidstone and Wolverhampton (Foreign Policy Centre & Local Government International Bureau);
- Regions: “Regional panels”, rather like the BBC’s “Question Time” programme in Bristol, Birmingham, Newcastle, Oxford, Manchester plus one (Federal Trust);
- Northern Ireland: EU enlargement “roadshow” for schools (British Council);
- Scotland: bi-monthly insert in Chambers of Commerce bulletins and journals followed by a seminar later in the year (Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce);
- Scotland: 2 business debates & 4 workshops on enlargement (Highland Opportunity).

Internet

- The Representation’s website now has an experimental “portal”/single entry point for information on Enlargement <http://www.cec.org.uk/info/enlarge/index.htm>. This includes an Enlargement “weblog” - a diary-style site with links to other web pages, most notably those on the DG Enlargement site.

Information Centres & Networks

- In terms of events for information providers organised by the Representation: EU enlargement was one of the themes for the Education Resource Centre Network residential meeting on 5-6 February in Durham. The event was dominated by the question of the future of this network, currently the subject of a DfES review.
- The UK network of European Public Information Centres in libraries across the UK will be an important recipient of the (centrally-funded) “Enlargement information stands”. These are now available for use by Embassies/High Commissions, as well as information providers.

Other information activities or events

- UK Government: The EU Department at the Foreign Office runs the UK Government campaign on enlargement (launched 24/04/02). FCO targets ‘influencers’ in the UK – regional bodies (devolved administrations, English

regions etc) and national groups (such as TUC, CBI, IOD, NFU etc). It also favours events with wider public appeal to improve domestic perception of Candidate Countries. This is complemented by bilateral “Action plans” with 11 Candidates (all except Cyprus & Lithuania).

- European Parliament: The Representation also works closely with the European Parliament Information Office in the UK on the implementation of the Enlargement Communications Strategy. The next meeting of the Heads of Office/Representation is scheduled for 19 March.

Information activities related to the Convention

- LSE hosted a public lecture by Harvard EU program-director Andrew Moravcsik on 20 February. He argued against the myth of a democratic deficit in the EU; The Hellenic Observatory at LSE’s European Institute organised a public lecture on the Convention on 25 February. Speakers included George Katiforis MEP (Greek Government Representative) and Kirsty Hughes (CEPR).