

THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR ENLARGEMENT IN THE APPLICANT COUNTRIES

PROGRESS REPORT #4 [MAY 2002]

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 report is available at http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/communication/pdf/explaining_enlargement.pdf.

The following is a monthly update of that report, covering [...] 2002. It lists the various activities carried out as part of the communication strategy for enlargement in the candidate countries, 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 in the candidate countries, see [link to the new part of the “Who does what” section listing the individual delegations]

The DG Enlargement Information Team

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This is the fourth regular monthly update of that report, including information from the candidate countries, as well as important background material, namely opinion polls. The period covered is the month of May 2002.

THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY IN CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

General Developments

Information activities of the Delegations in the month of May were dominated by the Europe Day celebrations. May 9th activities carry the debate on EU accession into the countryside and to approach people hitherto not exposed to information on the EU.

What the polls say:

- A survey in Bulgaria showed a decline in positive public attitude towards Bulgaria's membership in the EU. Compared to 69% positive response in April in May only 61% of respondents stated they would vote for accession. The negative was at 14% (+ 6%).
- An opinion poll in the Czech Republic by GfK on a potential EU accession referendum revealed that the number of "yes" votes dropped by 12 points to 41%, while the "no" votes increased by 16 points to 36. The analysis given was that the discussion over the Benes decrees might have an impact on Czech public attitudes towards EU accession.
- According to the latest opinion poll by EMOR 57% of adult citizens in Estonia were in favour of accession to the EU and 36% opposed it.
- Diena's supplement *SESTDIENA* looked at reasons for "euroscepticism" in Latvia. The attitude of people towards the EU reveals that Latvians are worried about EU citizenship issues, which they link with the loss of national citizenship. People in Latvia are positive about the fact that EU does not try to regulate culture and language issues, but it still provides support for culture exchange programmes and maintenance of cultural heritage. People have certain fears to lose their language (52%), identity and culture (40%) and national currency (48%).
- A poll conducted on 9-12 May by Vilmorus showed that the number of EU supporters increased. The number of respondents who would vote for Lithuania's accession to the EU made up 49% (cf. 47.9% in April); the number EU opponents increased by 0.9% to 24.9%.
- A poll commissioned by the Office of the Committee for European Integration, held in the middle of May by GfK Polonia indicates that 58% of Poles intend to participate in an accession referendum; 25% would not vote and 17% have not yet

decided. 74% of those participating would vote “yes”, 15% - “no”, 11% are not decided.

- The Academic Research Centre (AKART) asked people in Turkey whether they think that Turkey should join the EU. 32,4% said “yes”, 17,2% “no” and 49,8% “yes but without making any concessions”. Asked if they thought that the EU would accept Turkey, 14,1% stated “yes”, 45,2% “no” and 39,7% “Yes, if Turkey meets EU conditions”.

Creative ideas and events

- From 24 to 26 May, an environmental festival was held in the scenic Nightingale Valley in Võru County in Estonia. The three-day festival organised by the Delegation and the Estonian Fund for Nature drew about 650 participants, and consisted of lectures, nature treks, concerts, a joint viewing of the Eurovision Song Contest, contests, workshops etc. EU brochures were distributed to the participants on the spot and a slide show on EU-funded environmental projects in Estonia was presented. The event attracted media coverage in local and national media.
- The *EU on the phone* initiative in the Czech Republic proves a success. At present, six operators answer up to a thousand questions a day. Most frequently, people are interested in what impact will the accession have on their standard of living; they want to know the euro exchange rate and information about the member states.
- a tri-country, cross-border Europe Day, involving the Delegations in Budapest, Bratislava and Kiev will take place in late August in the Zemplen Region.
- In Malta the *Nature Trust*, in co-operation with the Delegation, organised a beach clean up to coincide with Schuman Day. This event received significant television coverage.

THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY BY COUNTRY

Bulgaria

Public opinion

- The regular monthly survey commissioned by the Delegation among 1012 persons, aged 18+ in 180 sampling points shows a decline in positive public attitude towards Bulgaria’s membership in the EU. Compared to 69% positive response in April in May only 61% of respondents stated they would vote for accession.
- A decline of 5% was registered in the opinion of the respondents that “it is extremely important to enter EU” – May results show 30% approval compared to 35% in April. A deeper look into the public expectations of accession shows again a difference in May – while 56% of the respondents have viewed accession as an indicator of a positive future in April, in May the survey registered 49% positive expectations.

Media

- A series of interviews were organised with the Head of Delegation on occasion of the Day of Europe on 9 May.
- An informal meeting was organised with three leading journalists working in the field of justice and home affairs on the occasion of a European Commission Task Force visit.

Information Events

- The Europe Day Celebrations were launched by the Head of Delegation with a press conference in the end of April presenting all the areas and aspects of the celebration initiatives. These included the Robert Schuman journalist award for EU-Bulgaria issues media coverage – organised for the 4th successive year; the EU Information Centre Europe Day activities under the logo *Europe is a State of Mind*; and local and regional *Europe Days in the countryside*.
- Europe Days celebrations were organised in most of the big towns in the countryside as well as in small municipalities over the month.
- Some towns have inaugurated public places in the name of Europe – like the Euro-region Square in Vidin. In all towns local business conferences and discussions about EU regional policy and the future of Bulgarian business in the European Common Market were organised involving international participation.
- Youth events included competitions, quizzes, traditional dance performances and cuisine exhibitions as well as environmental initiatives like planting trees and flowers in the shape of a map of Europe. NGO events mainly focused on opportunities for assistance in solution of local problems.
- Detailed information about Europe Days celebrations in Bulgaria was included in a special *Europe Day Celebration Report*.
- The final stage of the initiative “Seminars for local public administration” was executed. Three public relations officers from three different municipalities (Varna, Gabrovo and Sliven) went on a work visit to Brussels.

Internet

- Frequency of visits to the Delegation web site www.evropa.bg grew intensively in May. Regular updates of the Delegation web site in followed the events in Bulgaria, events in EU, calls for proposals for EU assistance, etc. An online fact sheet, the Schuman Declaration and detailed information about sources on celebration in Europe were published. A Europe Day media coverage component was also included in the info pack. A detailed Europe Day events calendar was available online for the visitors.
- An average number of 380 users per day visit the web site to check the news, download applications and reports, and to find EU sources of information, and stay at least 10 minutes online.
- A series of EC Audio-visual library videotapes was obtained to be used for public screenings at the EUIC and present European institutions and the founding fathers of the Union – like “*Jean Monnet, pere de l’Europe*”, “*Paul-Henri Spaak, pere de l’Europe*”, “*Konrad Adenauer, pere de l’Europe*”.

Products

- *The Europanorama Newsletter* has been written, designed and produced. The distribution was fulfilled successfully.
- *The Financing Memoranda Phare, ISPA – 2001* brochures are available

Information Centre

- In May the visitors of the IC doubled: 80 compared to an average of 39 people per day for the previous month. The Schuman Declaration and the significance of 9 May was the leading topic of the month. The scheduled opening of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights ranked second in the interest of visitors. Third come inquiries about EU legislation, with case law and legislation in preparation receiving the highest attention.
- In May the Information Centre launched its information campaign “Europe is a State of the Mind” dedicated to Europe Day. The programme of the campaign included an exhibition of information materials about the EU enlargement, discussions, promotion of documentaries and new video materials about the EU.
- During the Europe Days at the Information Centre the events “Europe on my computer” and “The Bulgarian language and Internet”, were organised.
- The Award ceremony of the annual essay competition for university students of the Economic Policy Institute and the World Bank took place on 16 May. The 2002 theme was “Bringing Bulgaria’s Economy Closer to Europe: Issues and Opportunities”

Convention

- All major print media published articles about the Convention for the Future of Europe.

The Czech Republic

- Six years after debating the accession to the EU, the Czech Republic is where it used to be: the accession to the EU is supported by 46% of people, i.e., the same number as in 1996. On the other hand, the number of those in opposition to the accession to the EU has slightly grown. One third of the population still does not know whether they will vote in favour of the accession or against it.
- The communication strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received CzK 40 million from the state budget this year.
- The *EU on the phone* initiative proves a success. Luděk Zahradníček from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that thanks to billboards the number of callers in comparison with the first days of the launch has increased many times, and keeps growing. At present, six operators answer up to a thousand questions a day. Most frequently, people are interested in what impact accession will have on their standard of living; they want to know the current euro exchange rate and information about the member states.

Public opinion

- The recent opinion poll by GfK on potential EU accession referendum, according to which the number of yes votes dropped by 12 points to 41% and the no votes

increased by 16 points to 36 %, indicates that the discussion over the Benes decrees may have an impact on Czech public attitudes towards EU accession

- Fifty-six percent of Czechs supported the Czech Republic's EU integration effort, and 28 percent said they disapproved of it in a poll conducted in April by the CVVM polling agency. The respondents, however, would be more reluctant if asked to vote on EU accession in a referendum, the poll showed. Only two-fifths of them said they would support EU accession in a referendum, while 19 percent said they would vote against it.
- Czech EU integration is mainly supported by people with secondary school level and university education, entrepreneurs, small tradespeople and supporters of the opposition Civic Democrats (ODS) and the Coalition grouping. Lowest support was voiced by people over 60 and followers of the Communist party (KSCM). Those questioned most often agreed that the country would partly lose its sovereignty after it joins the EU. This opinion was shared by 71 percent of respondents. According to 64 percent, EU accession would imply the departure of skilled workers from the country.
- Should the referendum on the Czech Republic's EU accession be held this year, most people (six out of ten) would take part in it TNS Factum found out. Nearly one quarter would not go to vote, and the remaining 15% would hesitate to take part in a referendum on this strategic matter. Despite the high pressure upon public opinion related to the EU at the time of the elections campaigns, nearly one half of the entire population - 47.3% - would vote for Czech entry into the EU should the referendum be held. A scant third (31.7 %) would reject this, and about one fifth (21.0%) have not made up their minds yet.

Media

- Czech media reported and commented on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Candidate countries' place therein. They expressed Czech fears of becoming a net contributor to EU budget after accession.
- Czech media also reported extensively on this year's Schuman Day celebrations in different cities of the Czech Republic. The coverage was positive and the media stressed the visit of President Havel to the main event in Prague.

Information Centre

- Five public seminars took place at the EUIC during May 2002 each visited by between 40-60 people. Seminars, given by Team Europe members, focused on the following topics: Structural funds for the Czech Republic following EU accession. Negotiations on the „Regional policy and Co-ordination of Structural Instruments“ chapter (2 May).
- A public debate was held on Europe Day on "European Integration - from the Schuman Declaration to the Convention on the Future of the European Union. Energy – Liberalisation of EU Energy Markets, Expected Changes in the Czech Republic after Accession, Nuclear Energy Issues (16 May). Small and Medium Enterprises – their Role within the EU, preparation for accession, EU support for Czech SMEs, Czech Business Representation in Brussels (23 May). EU Institutions – their mutual interdependence, decision-making processes and its transparency, co-operation with interest groups – Euro-lobby, Czech representation in these institutions – qualification requirements (30 May).

Internet

- On 9 May the Delegation launched its redesigned website on the old address: <http://www.evropska-unie.cz/>

Networking events

- The Team Europe regular meeting took place on 29 May. Discussion topics included Negotiations on chapter 21 „Regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments”, and making use of pre-structural funds until now.
- A decision was made to focus Team Europe activities more on specific groups, starting in September 2002

Information Events

- On occasion of Europe Day the Delegation, the 15 Member States and the Foreign Ministry had each one stand at Na Prikope (one of the most frequented streets in the centre of Prague). Additionally a cultural program with performances from Member States and the Czech Republic took place at a central stage all day.
- The Head of Delegation visited Chomutov in Northwestern Bohemia on 9 May to take part in a regional visit programme. More than 70 Chomutov citizens interested in European issues attended a general public debate, which took place following the press briefing. After the general public debate, the Head of Delegation met with regional trade unions representatives.
- On 10 May the Head of Delegation visit of the Karlovy Vary Region included a regional round table (some 35 opinion-makers and journalists participated) followed by a press conference. During the press conference the regional chancellor, Josef Pavel, and the Head of Delegation planted a Europe Tree in front of the Regional Office Building. Thereafter the Head of Delegation took part in a debate with 65 representatives of senior citizens groups from Karlovy Vary.
- The Head of Delegation participated in the official opening of the Regional EU Information Centre (REIS) in Mariánské Lázně on 10 May. The Head of Delegation together with local representatives and Czech Foreign Ministry representative, Dr. Marie Chatardová, Director of the Ministry's Department for Communication Strategy, officially opened the Centre and took part in a press briefing.
- An EU Information Centre in Krnov (in Euro region Silesia) was opened on 15 May. The DEC and EUIC supported this activity both financially and through provision of technical support to the Krnov City Council.

Products

- The following publications are currently in production processes and expected to be completed during June 2002: Panels on EU member-states (to be used in adapted formats at further public events), Coffee mugs with EU logo, and EUIC visit cards.

Estonia

Public opinion

- According to the latest opinion poll by EMOR from the second half of May, 57% of adult citizens in Estonia were in favour of accession to the EU, 36% opposed it, and the undecided accounted for 8%.

Media

- Several press releases were issued informing about the Europe days in the regions.

Events

- From 24 to 26 May, an environmental festival was successfully held in the scenic Nightingale Valley in Võru County. The festival was initiated by the Delegation, co-financed through the EU Information and Communication programme and carried out by the Estonian Fund for Nature. The three-day event drew about 650 participants, and consisted of lectures, nature treks, concerts, a joint viewing of the Eurovision Song Contest on a wide-screen, contests, workshops etc. EU brochures were distributed to the participants on the spot and a slide show on EU-funded environmental projects in Estonia was presented. The event attracted media coverage in local and national media.
- On 27 May, the first seminar in a series entitled “Estonia’s enterprises in the EU” was held in Paide County. The seminars are targeted at small and medium sized firms outside the capital. The feedback from the participants’ evaluation was positive and indicated continued need for similar training courses. The seminars will continue in September 2002 in other counties.
- The Delegation started a joint project with the Estonian Public Radio’s Russian-language channel *Radio 4* to produce 15 programmes with the title “*Fast Track to Europe*”. The aim is to introduce the EU and its 15 member states in an entertaining and informative manner. *Radio 4* is the most popular Russian-language radio programme in Estonia with an audience of 160,000.
- The largest commercial TV station TV3 continued airing weekly family quiz shows devoted to European topics. The show is co-sponsored from the budget of the EU Information and Communication Programme in Estonia.
- During the reporting period, the EUIC released 4 weekly electronic newsletters *European Union This Week*. The Newsletter is mailed weekly to over 3,500 recipients, including national and local politicians, the government sector, NGOs, entrepreneurs and the major media channels.

Events

- The Delegation supported the organisation of the Europe Day festivities in the capital Tallinn and the second largest city Tartu. The EU Info Centre participated with its stand in the open-air event organised by the Estonian European Movement in Tallinn.
- Both events consisted of an information fair, public debates with the participation of media personalities and several concerts. The main performer was this year’s representative of Estonia at the Eurovision Song Contest, Sahlene. The events drew large crowds in both locations.

- To celebrate Europe Day the Head of Delegation John Kjaer spoke at two public events organised by Concordia University and Euro College in Tallinn. He also hosted a reception for almost 400 politicians, civil servants, journalists, NGO representatives *et al.* at his residence.
- The EUIC organised an EU Information Day for teachers in Ida-Viru County (in Jõhvi Gymnasium) on 3 May. Lectures were held on EU history, institutions and EU-Estonian relations and on EU information sources.
- A Contract with the NGO “Team Europe Estonia” was signed in order to organise 25 lectures on EU topics all over Estonia during the period May 2002 - November 2002.
- On 9 May a lecture on EU information sources was held for teachers from Lääne-Viru County.
- On 4 May two lectures were held on EU and EU information sources for Saturday School students in Kohtla-Järve Library.

Information Centre

- Five Europe Days were carried out during the reporting period: Swedish Day in Saare County on 17 May; Danish Day in Rapla County on 17 May; Austrian Day in Tartu County on 28 May; Netherlands Day in Lääne County on 30 May; German Day in Viljandi County on 6 June. The EUIC was present at all these events with its stand including EU exhibitions, an interactive quiz and information materials.

Hungary

Public opinion

- A special Eurobarometer carried out in the 15 Member States was published by the Commission in May. Out of the CCs only four countries received recognition rates of 30% or more – 31 % of the respondents know that Hungary is a candidate to join the EU.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a tender for conducting qualitative and quantitative public opinion polls. The research will contain focus group surveys, tracking surveys and normal surveys on a large sample and will continue until 31 December 2003.

Media

- The Head of Delegation gave an interview to the Hungarian daily *Magyar Hirlap* on the preparation for the absorption of EU funds. During his first regional visit he gave an interview to the Newsletter of the Pécs Chamber of Commerce.

Information events and initiatives

- On 9 May, the Head of Delegation hosted a reception for over 500 guests. In addition, a full-day event to mark Schuman Day was held in downtown Budapest, in front of the Info Centre. There were bands, food stalls, children's' competitions, the launch of the Eurocar and a solemn opening ceremony performed by the HoD, the Spanish Ambassador, the Mayor of Budapest and the Deputy State Secretary for Integration.

Information Centre and Relays

- The Centre received three student groups and a group of Information Officers from Finland on a study trip through candidate countries.
- The Centre hosted a meeting of Press attaches of EU embassies and an Information Day organised by the Brussels Interpretation Service.

Other information activities or events in the country

- Plans are ongoing for a tri-country, cross-border Europe Day, to take place in late August in the Zemplen Region, bordering Slovakia and Ukraine.
- Semi-finals of the Schumann competition – a competition for high-school students on the European Union supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - took place on 7 and 14 June in Budapest and in the regions. The Delegation provided PR materials members of the jury.

Latvia

- The Representative from Latvia, Marie N won the at the Eurovision song festival. Taking into account that this festival receives considerable attention, it could influence public opinion on EU, as it was the case in Estonia last year.

Public Opinion

- Diena's supplement *SESTDIENA* looked at reasons for opposition to the EU in Latvia. The attitude of people towards the EU reveals that Latvians are worried about EU citizenship issues, which they link with the loss of national citizenship. People in Latvia are positive about the fact that EU does not try to regulate culture and language issues, but it still provides support for culture exchange programmes and maintenance of cultural heritage. People fear to lose their language (52%), identity and culture (40%), national currency (48%).
- Latest public opinion poll (May) data shows that the level of the support to Latvia's accession to the EU has increased by 5 percent. If there would be a referendum tomorrow 41,5% of the respondents would vote "for" (36,3% in February) and 38,4% "against" (43% in February) an EU accession of their country. 20,1% are still undecided. ("Latvijas Fakti").
- In the survey provided by the company SKDS in April, respondents were asked to answer the question "From your point of view, does the economic welfare of Latvia depend more on the European Union or Russia and other CIS countries". More than 40% of respondents believe that welfare of Latvia depends on Russia and other CIS countries, 28,6% think that it depends on EU.

Media

- Several new projects started in the media on their own initiative. The largest daily newspaper *Diena* started to publish an insert on EU issues *Tu un ES* (You and EU). The largest newspaper for farmers *Lauku Avīze* decided to start a supplement on EU *Tepat Eiropā* (Here in Europe). A special section devoted to EU issues has been created in one of the major news portals *TVNet*.
- Still one of the hot topics in the press is agriculture. The information from the Ministry of Finance about Latvia's financial benefits after accession was covered quite widely.

Information events and initiatives

- *TV Erudīts* is a youth quiz show on Latvian National TV. It is already broadcast at the Latvian State TV 2nd Channel for several years. Starting October 2001 this quiz show is covering EU topics. The Delegation is helping prepare questions for the game.
- Four Regional Information days have taken place in May in Adaži, Aluksne - Valmiera, Talsi and Garkalne. Events have gathered representatives from local municipalities, schools as well as many people from the general public.
- The awarding ceremony for the winners of contests organised by the regional EU Information Points have taken place on 7 May during the Europe Week. Contests organised by regional EU Information Points have taken place in April. Pupils from local schools and other interest groups have actively participated in the contests.
- The visual materials for the EUIP have been prepared: stickers and posters with the logo of EUIP and flags of European countries.
- The Europe Week was celebrated in Latvia for the 5th time. This year the event was held from 6 – 11 May. It was opened with a press conference on Friday, 3 May with the participation of the Prime Minister Andris Bērziņš and the Head of the European Commission's Delegation in Latvia Andrew Rasbash. The Director of the EUIC was participating in this conference as well and presented events of the Europe Week.
- A wide range of more than 100 events especially devoted to the Europe Week has taken place during this week -information stands, discussions, meetings, seminars, contests, exhibitions and a tour of the Eurobus through small rural areas. The Europe week was concluded by a rock concert in Rātslaukums.
- More than 500 persons got involved in the activities organised by the EUIC, more than 2000 participated in activities supported under the programme. Many other thousands took part in the events organised by other partners e.g. government institutions and non-governmental organisations. More than 250 articles were published in mass media about the events of the Europe Week, organised in close co-operation among government institutions, non-governmental organisation and the European Commission Delegation in Latvia.
- The contest of research papers for students on the topic "Latvia as an EU member state" was launched on February 15. By April 15 sixteen research papers were received. The evaluation committee consisting of representatives of the Delegation, government and universities has evaluated submitted works. Three winners were selected. The papers have been placed on the EUIC web site.
- The project contest aiming to promote public information about the EU was announced 15 February. 168 very different projects covering all kind of activities were received. An evaluation committee has selected 18 projects that will be supported.
- A decision was taken to support the organisation of the yearly contest for the secondary school students "Ceļā uz Eiropu".

Internet

- The number of web page visitors this month was 2404.

Products

- The 18th issue of the EC Delegation's newspaper "Hello in Europe!" has been printed and placed on the web site.
- Several supplements for newspapers have been prepared.
- It was decided to prepare short fact sheets about all negotiation chapters explaining the EU policy in respective sectors and showing Latvia's situation.

Information Centre

- Regular European Dialogues were organised on 24 May on the topic "Latvia's Place in Europe", "How Latvia and Latvians are perceived in Europe?", "What kind of contribution Latvia may bring the EU?" These and other topics were discussed in the European Dialogues.
- Several EU Information days were organised in schools.
- The presentations "Welcome to the EU institutions – Council of EU" and "...European Parliament" were organised on 7 May in the EUIC. During the presentation videos about the Council of EU were shown.
- Several discussion rounds took place in the EUIC.
- An Event celebrating the Europe Day and the 52nd Anniversary of the Schuman Declaration has taken place on 9 May. The Director of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Latvia Maija Kule and Head of EC Delegation in Latvia addressed the invited audience.
- An EU Information day for Latvian Pensioner federation, Riga section was organised on 21 May. Regular articles prepared by EUIC staff will appear in the Pensioner Federation's newspaper.
- An EU Information day for young Russian speakers about the EU has taken place at EUIC on 27 May.
- *Doma laukums*, the National Radio channel broadcasting in Russian broadcasts every Friday a programme devoted to EU affairs called "Virziens Eiropa" (Direction Europe). The director of EUIC participated in two programmes and informed about Europe Week 2002 activities.
- A series of seminars for regional journalists on EU issues were organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Visit of the president of the European Parliament Pat Cox and 13th meeting of the parliamentarians for EU member states and candidate countries took place on May 27-28. This visit received impressive media attention.

Convention

- During Europe Week on 9 May the Prime Minister A. Bērziņš and the Head of the European Movement in Latvia A. Dimants convoked the National Convention on the Future of Europe. The goal of the Convention was to supplement discussion in Latvian society about Latvia's future in an enlarged EU.

Lithuania

Public opinion

- The rate of positive attitude towards EU accession has increased by 2% as compared to May. 52.5% of people would vote in favour of accession if a referendum was held in June.
- An opinion poll conducted on 9-12 May by Vilmorus showed that the number of EU supporters increased. The number of respondents who would vote for Lithuania's accession to the EU made up 49% (cf. 47.9% in April); the number EU opponents increased by 0.9% to 24.9%.

Media

- A joint TV project with the National TV – the weekly programme “EUROGRAZA” – ended before the summer season with a programme, “The future of Lithuania and the EU”.
- During the summer season the National Television will repeatedly broadcast the film “People like us”.
- A joint project with the National Radio is continuing. 5-10-minute inserts into different programmes including some aimed at the Russian-speaking public are being aired on a weekly basis.
- Joint projects with regional radio stations in Alytus and Mazeikiai are continued. They produce weekly programmes on EU matters. Both radio stations are very active in preparing special programmes on recent developments in negotiations and EU-Lithuania relations.
- A joint project with a newspaper for the blind continues; they issue a supplement on EU matters in Braille.
- Commissioner Monti and Director General of DG COMP A. Schaub paid a visit to Lithuania. They attended the Annual Competition Conference of EC and candidate countries. The media relations consisted of the above mentioned press conferences. Media reported extensively on the visit.

Information Events

- The Europe Day was celebrated in all regions of Lithuania and was covered by all newspapers and TV news issues. The main events and activities, which took place on 9 May, were jointly organised by the EC Delegation, the European Committee of the Government, the EU information network, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several non-governmental organisations as well as municipal authorities. Information Points were set up in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda, where people could obtain information and receive answers about different EU-related matters. Competitions, exhibitions, quizzes and concerts were organised.
- In Vilnius, the main event was held in the “Europe Parc” where Vilnius inhabitants were taken free of charge. Visitors from all the country could meet President V. Adamkus, Minister for Foreign Affairs A. Valionis, Head of Delegation Michael Graham, Chief Negotiator P. Austrevicius and other Lithuanian officials and discuss the upcoming accession.
- For a period of several days before 9 May the NGO “Europe House” held a series of European events in all major towns of Lithuania.

- A “long-term” Europe Day event was held by the Delegation for the schools of Vilnius County. Children of many schools participated in the contest and the final event for the best schools was held on May 9 in A. Mickevicius Public Library in Vilnius, where 6 schools of the county participated.
- The Delegation issued a special leaflet and stickers for the 9 May and produced a special banner for the web page in which a complete list of the events was put.

Internet

- Significant improvement has been made regarding the mailing list of recipients of electronic newsletter. Every customer of the website can be included into the mailing list automatically.

Products

- Three publications of Lithuanian authors are in the last phase of preparation – proof reading, designing, layouts and other works are taking place.
- The brochure for young people “The EU – a united power” has been produced together with the Translation, Documentation and Information Centre under the European Committee under the Government. The brochure gives a very short overview of all member states and candidate countries.
- Following the selection of the company and creation of a detailed scenario, the production of a film on the EU has started.
- The Delegation’s Infocentre produces the weekly electronic newsletter e-Zinios. The target audience is the Government, media, academic circles, etc. The list of recipients has expanded. After additional efforts and creation of new software, the mailing list now consists of about 3500 recipients.

Information Centre

- The Information Centre was mainly involved in organising the PR campaign in the regions related to the EU information.

Other information activities

- The Information Section visited several events carried out by NGOs under the SPP 2000.
- The European Committee under the Government of Lithuania, together with the European Institute of Kaunas Technological University, organised a scientific conference called “European Integration Issues”.

Malta

- According to a recent survey conducted by MISCO using a sample of 800 people, just over 72% of the Maltese questioned said that the Malta-EU Information Centre has helped them to get to know more about the EU. The same survey showed that 75% of the Maltese have read some publications produced by the MIC.
- The development of the two principle elements of the information strategy, i.e. the Delegation Newsletter and the Website continued during the period. The second issue of the Newsletter appeared at the beginning of May and was distributed in 1000 copies during the month.

- As in other months, the staff of the Delegation has made numerous presentations at locally organised events.
- The Delegation's support for those promoting the EU through various initiatives is now well known and a large number of requests for such support have been received.
- Major events in the period were the visits of The President of the European Parliament, Pat Cox, the Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy and the Director General for Enlargement, Eneko Landaburu. All these visits were high profile and were widely reported in the press and on television.

Media

- Press conferences were organised for President Cox, Commissioner Lamy and Mr. Landaburu. Television interviews and a newspaper interview were organised for Commissioner Lamy and Pat Cox. All received wide media attention.

Information Events

- A programme of seven separate events being organised by the National Youth Council to increase awareness of the EU among youth groups was carried out.
- A group of mayors and business leaders from Gozo were supported for an information visit to Brussels.
- A group from a farmer's co-operative was supported for an information visit to DGs AGRI and ENLARGEMENT.
- The Building Industry was supported for a conference on the impact of EU legislation on the operations of their industry.
- Nature Trust, in co-operation with the Delegation, organised a beach clean up to coincide with Schuman Day. This event received significant television coverage.

Internet

- The Website has been launched and has been the subject to favourable comment. A translator was engaged to translate the Delegation elements of the website.

Products

- The Newsletter is a bimonthly issue both in Maltese and English.
- Some broadcast videos were received from DG FISH and will be offered to local TV stations for broadcast. The Delegation will offer to make Maltese voiceovers if stations agree to broadcast the material.

Other Information activities

- The MIC implements the Maltese Government's information strategy. Other bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Industry also organise information activities.

Convention

- The Maltese Representatives of the Convention have been entrusted to designate nominees who will represent Malta at a Youth Forum scheduled to be held in Brussels, in July, at the European Parliament.
- In a declaration aimed as a contribution to the debate on the future of EU in the Convention, the Commission of the Bishops' Conference of the European

Community stated it supports the integration process “in order to guarantee justice and harmony”. The Bishops’ Conferences of Malta, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland are associate members. Referring to Malta, a spokesman for the Commission of the Bishops of the European Community said “Malta occupies a key place in what we might call the ‘Mediterranean branch’ of the European family, a family of countries committed to peace, democracy and fundamental rights”.

Poland

- President’s experts started work on a bill on accession referendum. President Kwasniewski set up a special task force of experts who are to prepare a draft law on accession referendum. He said that in his opinion, as for today, the question to be asked could be: “Do you accept the agreement on Poland’s EU accession, negotiated by Poland and the EU?”
- Parliamentary and non-parliamentary parties confirmed their intention of co-operation within the Pact for European Integration. Leaders of parliamentary and non-parliamentary parties, which have signed last year the Pact for EU Integration met at the PM Chancellery.
- On 8 May the Government Plenipotentiary for European Information Mr. Wiatr officially launched the first stage of the information campaign “The Union without secrets”. The day before, the “Social Plenipotentiary” Giertych, one of the leaders of the League of Polish Families launched an anti-European information campaign, claiming all towns and villages will be reached and persuaded that the EU membership is the greatest danger for Poland.

Public opinion

- A poll commissioned by the Office of the Committee for European Integration, held in the middle of May by GfK Polonia indicates that 58% of Poles intend to participate in an accession referendum; 25% would not vote and 17% have not yet decided. 74% of those participating would vote “yes”, 15% - “no”, 11% have not yet decided.
- A poll conducted in the same time by OBOP indicates that 66% of those declaring participation would say “yes”, 25% “no” and 9% are undecided.
- Some other interesting findings of this study are that 75% of respondents claim that Polish politicians are in disagreement on EU membership, while 15% believe that the political elites are in agreement. 47% have confidence in Polish negotiators, while 40% mistrust them.
- A mock accession referendum conducted by the Freedom Union on 7 May in a street survey in 114 Polish cities, brought an extraordinary result of 75% support. Altogether, almost 96.000 of casual passers-by were answering the question: “Are you for Poland’s EU accession?”
- Rzeczpospolita” published the consecutive third edition of its bi-monthly Eurobarometer on 1 May. 72% of respondents declare they would participate in an accession referendum and 75% of them – that they would say “yes”. These results translated into the whole society (those intending to vote and those staying at home) mean: 60% - for, 22% - against and 18% - undecided.

- This data confirms a survey on support of Polish accession to the EU, which was conducted by PBS Sopot in April 2002. According to this survey 73 % of the interviewed would take part in a referendum on Poland's accession to the EU if it took place in April 2002, 75% of which would say yes (Previously 71%). 16% would not participate, and 11 % of surveyed are hesitating to participate. Four months earlier, in December 2001, 19 % of interviewed would not participate in voting and 15 % were undecided.
- The classic profile of an EU supporter is young, with higher education, living in cities above 200.000 inhabitants and with an income of more than 700 zł per month. On the opposite only every third farmer supports Polish accession (31 %). The farmers are the largest group of the EU integration opponents, 45 % of them are willing to vote against (what means the 9 per cent increase). This is the only social group where opponents predominate.

Media

- Loyola de Palacio, the Commissioner in charge of Energy and Transport, paid a visit to Poland from 23.-24 May, during which she met with President Kwasniewski. On this occasion, a press conference and a press release were prepared, and three exclusive interviews with the Polish press organised.
- A press release was issued on the opening of the Bolesławiec by-pass co-financed under the Phare Cross-Border Co-operation Programme. The opening took place on 16 May in the presence of the President of the Republic of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski, and the Head of the EC Delegation in Poland, Ambassador Bruno Dethomas.

Networking

- The Delegation became honorary patron of the festival "Young European Cinema" in Torun.

Information events

- This year's Schuman Day celebrations were more spectacular than ever. On 8 May, the President invited a couple of hundred representatives of pro-European NGOs, politicians, parliamentarians and journalists to his Palace's gardens, to promote Europe. At the same time, the Prime Minister talked to a couple of hundred students about the benefits of EU integration. Lots of various Europe-related events were organised all over Poland.
- Schuman Day celebrations took place in Warsaw. Several thousands of representatives of pro-European organisations, top politicians, including the Prime Minister, parliamentarians, diplomats, folk groups, *et al* participated in a colourful street parade and festivities in the central streets of Warsaw, organised by the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation.
- At the same time, anti-European groupings organised the second anti-European Conference in the vicinity of the celebrating integration supporters. 40 – 50 young anti-Europeans demonstrated
- A second series of seminars, organised by OCIPE (Jesuits), concerning EU-related issues for priests and priest-trainers took place in May. The objective of the seminars is to provide priests with relevant information on the EU, its history, values and consequences of the integration for the society and the Church.

- The monthly meeting with students from Warsaw University and the Warsaw School of Economics dealt with the negotiations on agriculture. The session attracted the national television and media from several specialised newspapers for farmers. An account of the vivid debate following the speeches of the two experts and one of the students has been distributed to the press and will figure on the web-site of the Delegation.
- The final edition of the “Euro Quiz”, a co-production with the second national public television channel TVP2, took place on 29 May.
- The Polish President and the Head of Delegation participated in the closing ceremony of the National School Day Competition “Europe at School”, an event organised by the Ministry of National Education with support from the Delegation.
- The cycling rally for young farmers, a project organised with the Presidential Chancellery and the Ministry of Agriculture, has reached the national level. After 16 regional events, the final regional selection of 49 participants for the final took place on 25 May.
- Three of five big regional newspapers in the regions benefiting from Phare funds for projects related to economic and social cohesion have started issuing press supplements. The first 6 segments of “Our Union”, registered with the radio programme “Sygnaly Dnia”, a daily news programme on the Polish Radio1 Antenna, were broadcast in May, informing about different aspects of Phare economic and social cohesion programmes.
- A series of presentations for farmers to be broadcast by the first national public television channel TVP 1 in its ”Tydzien” (week) weekly programme, in co-operation with the Delegation, has started on 19 May, the second on 26 May. The aim is to include the most important economic and social issues for farmers concerning EU agriculture.
- The radio station “Radio Zachod” (radio west) together with “Radio Zielona Gora” (near the eastern border) started broadcasting a daily joint radio programme. The programme covers social and economic issues.
- Trybuna daily, a national newspaper, published the first of five columns on the integration process. The information, published in co-operation with the Delegation, geared mainly towards farmers, the rural population and workers, appear once a month from May to November.
- “Local Europe”, a competition for journalists of regional press, radio and television, organised in co-operation with the Polish Journalists Association, has been opened and widely announced in the press. A jury will select the winners in October on the basis of their contributions related to European integration. Winners will participate in a study visit to local newspapers in the EU member states.

Internet

- The Delegation is currently working on the reconstruction of the web-site.

Products

- 22 fact-sheets have been finalised and 10 new titles are being prepared.

- Delegation decided on the preparation of the series of CD-ROM presentations about the EU to be used at schools.

Info Point

- In April the Information Point had 970 visitors, and 1780 requests via phone, e-mail and mail. The Info Point staff organised 23 presentations in and outside Warsaw, this month mostly for teachers and. In Katowice the Info Point informed on Small and Medium size enterprises in Europe at the occasion of a conference organised by the National Chamber of Commerce. More than 250 SMEs and many students attended.
- Another well-received event was a boat trip on the Vistula river, where the Info Point and the Committee of European Integration of the Government presented their activities to secondary schools.
- The question and answers quiz was continued in colleges and primary schools.

Convention

- During a meeting on 14 May, politicians and experts – members of the President’s Reflection Group expressed the view that the EU should have a Constitutional Treaty rather than a constitution.
- Polish delegates to the Convention said that they will propose introducing *Invocatio Dei* to the preamble of an EU constitution. This was the result of their meeting with representatives of the Polish Episcopate on 8 May at the Presidential Palace.
- The Delegation issued a press release on the first Commission paper presented to the Convention.

Romania

Media

- Several press conferences have taken place and media monitoring was organised.

Information events

- On 8 and 9 May a national public debate on EU-related issues was launched at the initiative of the Ministry for European Integration.
- AIDONG (Agency for Information and development of NGOs), the EC Delegation in Romania and the European Integration Ministry organised a roundtable on “NGOs and European construction” on 9 May. The Head of the EC Delegation and the Minister attended the debate for representatives of civil society. The seminar that launched the national debate was organised at the Press Centre of Romanian Radio Broadcasting Company and asked all Romanians to share their opinions on Romania’s place in Europe (9 May)
- An “Open doors day” at the Ministry for European Integration provided the opportunity for the citizens to discuss directly with Ministry officials Romania’s accession process (9 May)
- On 21 May, the European Institute of Romania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a conference on “L’avenir de la construction européenne: les approches communes franco-roumaines”. It was attended by Mr. Jean Nestor,

Secretary-General of the Association „Notre Europe” and Mr. Ioan Jinga, Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and substitute representative on behalf of the Romanian Government at the Convention on the Future of Europe.

- For 9 May Europe Day, 35 partners in different places developed local events. The events covered the following areas: drawing and essays contests, European quiz, sport contests, picture exhibitions, round tables and symposia and many more.
- On 9 May journalists were invited to a cocktail at the Information Centre to celebrate Europe Day, in the presence of the Head of the Delegation, Jonathan Scheele and H.E. Jesus Atienza Serna, the Spanish Ambassador, on behalf of the Presidency.
- IC staff participated in the period 10-12 May at "Teenager Days" a youth fair organised by Ministry of Youth and Sport. The EU information and presentation stand hosted around 500 visitors. For these 3 days open-air manifestation, the Information Centre was present with information stands, daily from 10:00 to 18:00 distributing give-away material and answering queries from the public.
- In the framework of the Youth Campaign 200 questionnaires were distributed to high school pupils from the surrounding area of Bucharest. The project "School pupils and the European Union" of the Association *Pro Democratia* aimed at raising youth awareness through classes of EU history and distribution of leaflets from the Info Centre.

Internet

- The Delegation's website registered 16,049 visits.
- In the resource area most downloaded files were: "Financing opportunities" (table summary) - 3,369 times, followed by "Europa Fund" (small projects) - 2,177 times and the newly launched "Counselling and training scheme for SMEs" (component of Economic and Social Cohesion Programme), with 2,074 downloads.

Products

- Together with the Info team of the EC Delegation, the Information Centre launched the "Telecommunications" sector fiche, and fiches for "Counselling and training scheme for SMEs" and "Joint Actions Socrates, Leonardo and Youth Programmes". Also a new edition of "European Issues" series was released.
- "How to get EU financing 2002" (Romanian version) was produced (5,000 copies), and distributed by mail to the whole network and to journalists. The English version was produced during April, in 2000 copies.

Information Centre

- In May 2002, the Information Centre served 834 clients; staff answered 200 phone queries and replied to 46 e-mail queries.
- On 30 May 2002, the newly launched brochure "How to get EU financing 2002" (Romanian version) was delivered to 407 addresses, to local media from 41 counties and the national media.
- Following the exchange of information "networking" initiated by the seminar in Brussels, the Information Centre has sent to the homologues in other candidate countries Romanian brochures covering accession topics.

- The Information Centre hosted on 8 May 2002 “The NGOs and the European construction” round table organised by the Agency for Information and Development of NGOs with the participation of the Head of Delegation and delegation staff.
- On 31 May 2002, a press conference took place to announce the awards of the national competition "Edelweiss", for young talented children and teenagers from childcare placement institutions.

Slovenia

- May 2002 was dominated by extensive coverage of the "EU Week 2002", a series of events to mark Europe Day. As in the past, "EU Week 2002" was organised jointly with the Public Relations and Media Office of the Slovene government with the majority of more than 40 events organised solely by the Delegation.

Public Opinion

- According to the survey carried out each month by the Centre for public opinion research at the Ljubljana's Faculty of Social Sciences, the share of support for EU accession was on the increase in May, topping 55 % (up from 53.8 % in April). The share of those who would vote "no" at a referendum on EU dropped almost 6% to 26%, while some 19% do not have yet made up their mind on the issue. Moreover, 51% of respondents feel that EU membership would be beneficial for Slovenia, with only 29% of the opinion that Slovenia would not benefit from becoming an EU member.

Media

- A special briefing on "EU Week 2002" was organised at the beginning of the week with special attention given to non-mainstream media organisations and the Slovene Press Agency STA due to its high multiplying effect. A special three-minute radio show entitled "Yellow on blue" was produced during "EU Week 2002" and is now a weekly feature. The 9 May show focused on special Europe Day messages from key EU and Slovene personalities, involved in the accession process.
- The Head of Delegation featured as a guest speaker at TV Slovenia's *Aktualno* talk show with other key politicians.
- The Communication Team members continued with the regular co-operation with the Ljubljana-based *TV Pika*, including presenting various on-going and new activities each Thursday at *TV Pika's* news and current affairs show.

Information/Public Events

- The following activities took place in the framework of the Europe Week 2002:
- *Town Hall Meetings* (public debates on the EU and Slovenia's accession to the EU) in Velenje (with the Foreign Affairs Minister – 8 May); in Maribor (with the European Affairs Minister – 10 May) and in Krško (with the Deputy Head of Negotiations Team of Slovenia – 6 May).

- A Public debate entitled "*The future of Europe and Slovenia's role in the EU*" – with the three Slovene representatives in the Convention and the Foreign Minister (attended by more than 100 opinion makers – on 7 May).
- The *Opening of European Information Corners of the Delegation* in Krško (6 May) and Postojna (7 May).
- The *Visits of the Head of Delegation to Koper (7 May), Maribor (9 May) and Nova Gorica (6 May)*.
- "*Europe at school*" final ceremony in Maribor (9 May) – The Head of Delegation was the keynote speaker at the final awards ceremony of the "Europe at school" initiative, organised by the National Europe at school initiative, with awards for primary and secondary school students competing in essay-writing, painting, photo and internet competitions. Participation of more than 800 students and the final event and more than 23,000 overall.
- A *Meeting of The Head of Delegation with secondary school students* – which was re-broadcast by TV Slovenia as part of their show entitled "Loud and clear" (8 May).
- The *Europe Day in Center Evropa* included a drawing competition among pre-school children from all 12 regions of Slovenia, the best group of children was brought to Ljubljana on Europe Day and all drawing were exhibited in *Center Evropa*; an EU quiz with Slovene celebrities – five groups of two was tested for their knowledge of the EU affairs; and a performance of the Student Improvisation Theatre showing the EU in a different light.
- EU days with lectures, presentations and an information stand were organised during "EU Week 2002" in Krško, Postojna, Velenje, Maribor and Ilirska Bistrica.
- *National Days in Center Evropa* – in co-operation with the embassies and as part of the overall Enlargement Communication Strategy *Center Evropa* aimed at presenting Member States and candidate countries through National Days, comprising of publications, cultural presentation and cuisine. Two such days were organised during "EU Week 2002", namely Romanian and Spanish evenings.
- Other activities outside the Europe Week framework included:
- A *Town Hall Meeting* in Postojna (The Head of Delegation and European Affairs Minister (30 May).
- The *Presentation of the "White Paper on Youth"* – by the Head of Delegation to a group of professionals and NGOs, in co-operation with the Youth Office of the Republic of Slovenia (in Maribor on 16 May).
- A Lecture by *Center Evropa's* Regional Information Officer in the regions: in Maribor (Association of the Retired) and Rogaška Slatina (a group of retired people)

Internet

- The Delegation and *Center Evropa's* home page continues to attract more and more readers, due to daily-updated news section.

- The sub-section *Aktualno* continues to provide up-to-date information on various activities of the Commission, e.g. Internet chats.

Products

- *e@Evropa* bi-weekly electronic newsletters (editions No. 11 of 6 May, No. 12 of 20 May) was sent to around 500 recipients and is on www.evropska-unija.si)
- *EU Novice/EU News* monthly newsletter No. 54 was printed in 6500 Slovene copies and 500 English copies.

Information Centre

- Four regular *European Wednesdays* were organised (on a Spanish project entitled "On the way of St. James", as part of the Spanish Day in *Center Evropa*; on labelling of consumer products in Slovenia and the EU; on eSchola initiative of the EU; and a special round table on translation and interpretation in the EU institutions with participation from officials of the Commission and the Parliament.
- Several lectures on the EU were given in various places.

Other information activities

- The "Europe at school" initiative's final event was held on 9 May.
- *The Head of Delegation and Press Officer* gave a lecture to a group of Euro-Information Officers from Finland (16 May).

Turkey

- The recently launched Information Programme EUROPE HORIZONS represents the first phase in the implementation of the Communication Strategy for Enlargement in Turkey.
- The Representation has started preparations to launch a tender for the establishment of a new structure to implement and develop information and communication activities in accordance with the objectives of the Communication Strategy for Enlargement.

Public opinion

- The Centre des Recherches Académiques (AKART) asked people whether they think that Turkey should join the EU. 32,4% said yes, 17,2% no and 49,8% yes but without making any concessions. Asked if they thought that the EU would accept Turkey respondents 14,1% stated yes, 45,2% no and 39,7, if Turkey would meet EU conditions.
- In an opinion poll conducted by Boğaziçi University in 20 cities in Turkey among 3068 people 74 % of the people supported the EU membership and 18 % stated they opposed it.

Media

- There seems to be a greater interest for the EU in the Turkish media. Almost every day, there is a news item in the press or a debate programme on TV about the EU

or Turkey-EU relations. The Representation received a number of invitations to participate in such debates or interviews. Most of the media support membership.

Products

- The monthly EC Newsletter Güncel Haber was published in May following a long interval due to lack of financial resources. The newsletters were distributed to some 15,000 people in Turkey.
- On the occasion of Europe Day, The Representation produced a Europe Day poster in co-operation with the Secretariat General for EU Affairs. The posters were distributed as an insert together with the EC Newsletter, and also sent to EU's regional information network and EDCs.

Information Centre

- Gaziantep relay organised a panel on Enlargement, the accession process and Turkey for the occasion of Europe Day. A well-known journalist who also prepares TV programmes for CNN-TURK on EU participated in the panel as a speaker on 9 May.
- Denizli Relay set up an EU Information Stand at the Pamukkale University on 9 May to promote Europe Day.
- Mersin relay assisted the Economic Counsellor of the ECR and Economic and Economic Counsellors of the EU Embassies during their study visit to Diyarbakır. On the occasion of Europe Day, Mersin relay organised a Europe Day Seminar on "EU Regional Development policy and its implications on the Regional Development" on 9 May.
- Adana Relay organised a three day EU Information Seminar with the collaboration of IKV (Economic Development Foundation). As for Europe Day, Adana relay organised a concert on Europe Day in co-operation with the Çukurova State Symphony Orchestra on 10 May.

Internet

- A new page on Civil Society Development programme including Project Information sheet, procurement notice and the booklet in Turkish on Civil Society in Europe and Turkey, and different project sheets about the description of projects financed in Turkey.
- References of publications and background notes on EU-Turkey relations and accession process published in Turkey were added to the web site.

Information Centre / Relays + EDCs / Universities

- Gaziantep relay held meetings with several NGO's in co-operation with the EU Business Centres project co-ordinator. The relay also participated to 'Creating Future Partnership Programme' organised by British Council and GSM (Youth Services Centre) aiming to bring together EU and Turkish Youth NGO's.
- Antalya relay hosted the opening of Development Programme for Turkish Chambers organised by Eurochambers. A press release was prepared to publicise the event. Information about "Europa Bridges of Knowledge", "Europe Horizons" and Town Twinning projects were disseminated.
- Mersin relay organised a conference on EC founding treaties, Economic and Monetary Union, EIB funds, Customs Union that was attended by the president of

IKV (Economic Development Foundation). The Customs Union session was highly appreciated and another meeting focusing on CU and Turkey is being planned due to high demand.

Other information activities

- EUGS (European Union Secretariat General) website (www.abgs.gov.tr) has news on Turkey's communication strategy, second harmonisation package on the acquis, EuroBarometer report on candidate countries.

Convention

- The website has now a special web page on European Convention where there are related links, press news etc.