

THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR ENLARGEMENT

PROGRESS REPORT # 21 [November 2003]

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

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

The DG Enlargement Information Team

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THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY ON ENLARGEMENT BY COUNTRY

Austria

The communication environment

- During its session on the 6th of November 2003, the parliamentary constitutional committee voted on the acceptance of the EU-Accession Treaty for the ten New Member States. Despite contradictory reports in the media and by parts of the Austrian opposition, no delay in the Ratification process was to be encountered. On the 12th of November all political parties represented in the Austrian parliament voted in favour of the ratification of EU-Enlargement. As last and final act of ratification, the EU-Enlargement Treaty will have to be passed once more by Austria's second chamber, the "Bundesrat".
- On the 17th of November, the OECD was presenting the metropolitan area of the "Region Vienna-Bratislava". Far and beyond the "Region Vienna-Bratislava" goes the Pan-European project CENTROPE" that encompasses an area as wide as Brno, Bratislava, Gyor and Vienna, as well as a number of other cities, thereby including four nations in one Euroregion: Czech, Slovak, Hungarians and Austrians.

Activities of the Representation in Vienna

- The Representation in Vienna has inaugurated its interactive Internet databank CIRCA network, forum and data/file exchange for the concerned specialists in Austria. CIRCA has been well accepted both by interested ARGE members as well as by senior officials from the Bundeslaender to which it was opened by the Representation.
- 1st of May co-ordination holds the highest priority for the Representation in Vienna. After a session organised by the Head of the Representation at the Kaerntner Ring with representatives from all Bundeslaender in early November on the topic, another will be held in Graz, Styria in December.

Bulgaria

The communication environment

- The communication environment can be characterised by a flow of comments and analyses with emphasis on the following two issues: the peer review by EU experts on units 3 and 4 of Kozloduy NPP, and the reporting by different government institutions on absorption of EU funds. Another issue the press took interest in was the 2003 Regular Report of the European Commission on Bulgaria's progress towards accession.

Public Opinion

- The attitudes towards Bulgaria's accession to the European Union are characterised by a high level of public support. During the last four years, they have been moving within the range of 78-85%. The support is higher amongst the better-educated and more informed groups.
- The prevailing opinion, in a ratio of almost 2 to 1, is that Bulgaria's accession to the European Union will bring benefits rather than limitations to the country (66% to 24%). The Bulgarian public still perceives EU accession as a factor, which will positively influence the country's development as a whole, and to a lesser extent – as a phenomenon important for the individual citizen.

Media

- 98 % of Bulgarian press articles concerning the EU in the last week of November 2003 expressed a neutral attitude towards the Union, which means that out of a total of 144 EU-related articles in the period, 141 are neutral. The large percentage of the neutral articles is due to the informative, rather than analytical character of the articles.
- The leading topic in the period was that the government confirmed its commitment to close early the Kozloduy NPP units three and four.
- Another key topic was the high-profile support that Bulgaria received in West European capitals for its efforts to conclude accession talks with the EU in 2004 and attain full membership in 2007. The press covered statements that EC President Romano Prodi, French President Jacques Chirac, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende had made in that regard at meetings with Bulgarian leaders.
- EU financial aid for Bulgaria has also been a central issue for the press. Articles emphasised Agriculture Minister Mehmed Dikme's calls upon rural mayors to get ready with projects and competent teams to utilise the EU aid. Another key aspect of the EU financial aid topic was the pressure on Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha to replace Minister of Regional Development Valentin Tserovski. The dailies *Sega* and *Dnevnik* addressed the issue in detail.
- In line with these topics the Bulgarian press watched closely the following issues: discussions on the EU constitution; publications on corruption in the European Commission; protests against Enlargement and the higher cost of living in the EU countries; the EU currency; Russia and the EU; the Italian Presidency, and Romanian Constitutional Referendum and pre-accession negotiations.

Press releases

- Press conference of Mr. Kourkoulas on the occasion of the 2003 Regular Report of the European Commission on Bulgaria's progress towards accession
- Press conference on the Phare funded project for Development of Recruitment and Training Strategy for the Judiciary

- Visit by Mr. Marco Benedetti, acting Director General, DG Interpretation, European Commission, and Ms Olga Cosmidou, Director of Interpretation, European Parliament to Sofia
- EU Farm Commissioner Fischler sees “good progress” in Bulgaria’s EU preparations

Press conferences

- On 7 November 2003, Mr. Klaus Regling, Director-General of DG Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission gave press conference on the occasion of his visit to Bulgaria. The press conference was held at the EU Information Centre and was attended by more than 15 journalists.

Interviews

- The interviews given by the Head of the Delegation include:
- Trud daily, 24 Chassa daily, Dnevnik daily, Wirtschaftsblatt and Financial Times
- Interview for the Council of Minister’s new English language monthly bulletin under the communication strategy for EU accession of the Government of Bulgaria
- Address to readers for the Europanorama newsletter
- Live participation in the Bulgarian National TV, Recorded interview for the Bulgarian National TV
- Interview for ECON.bg
- Other interviews organised by the delegation during the reporting period:
- Interview by Christof Stock (Delegation) for Radio Netherlands
- Interviews by Mr. Henri Malosse, member of the European Economic and Social Committee, for Capital Weekly, Dnevnik and Bulgarian National Radio ‘Horizont’
- Interview by Ms Finetti, Head of Unit DG Enterprise, for "The Matrix" - An IT programme on the National TV
- Interviews by Mr Benedetti, Acting Director General DG Interpretation, and Ms Cosmidou holding the same position in the EP for The Capital weekly and 24 Chassa.

EU Information Events

- 5 November 2003 - Official presentation of the 2003 Regular Report on Bulgaria: The Head of the Delegation presented the 2003 Regular Report on Bulgaria’s progress towards accession to media representatives and diplomats from Member

States and acceding countries. More than 50 journalists attended the press conference, which received lot media coverage. The event started with the EbS broadcast of the official presentation of the Regular Reports for 2003 on the part of the European Commission to the European Parliament.

- 17 November 2003 - Presentation of the 2003 Regular Report to NGOs: The Head of Delegation presented the 2003 Regular Report on Bulgaria's progress towards accession to NGOs. More than 20 representatives of NGOs, trade unions, and foundations took part in the discussion of the Regular Report 2003 with the Head of Delegation.

Networking

- The Project Co-Director delivered a presentation on the Communication Strategy for Enlargement, presented and handed out 80 CD Guides "Europe on the Internet" at a seminar organised by the Institute for Public Administration and Euro Integration for government and municipal communication experts.
- A regular meeting was held with experts form the directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for the implementation of the Governmental Communication Strategy for the Preparation of Bulgaria's Accession to the EU.

Internet (www.evropa.bg)

- The total visiting users in November 2003 are 11 074. The total average users per day in November 2003 – 369.
- The Europa server leads with around 6000 page requests, followed by the EC Delegation to Bulgaria website with around 2700. While the Europa server was less used than in the previous month, the EC Delegation in Bulgaria site usage has increased compared to the previous one. The number of queries, made through the Internet site rose by about 50%. Typically, most of the searches made were in the "thematic reference browser". More than 1000 detailed information material queries were made, which represents a big increase in comparison to the previous month.
- The regular update of the web site started on 5 November. For the period of 5 November – 30 November 2003 the daily update of the Delegation comprised of 76 documents in total, both Bulgarian and English.
- The news topics published on www.evropa.bg in the above-mentioned period were related mainly to major EU events, EU reports and policies, documents with a bearing to EU accession and other practical issues of interest to a variety of target groups in Bulgaria.
- Other news highlights were the following:
 - Eurobarometer reports on the Europeans' perceptions of various issues
 - Conclusions of the European Conference on Rural Development

- Statement by President Prodi on the attacks in Istanbul on 20 November
- Competitiveness Report 2003
- The www.evropa.bg news alert subscription continues to attract an increasing number of subscribers from various target groups. Compared to 1468 subscribers as of 11 September 2003, the number of new subscribers has risen to a total of 1743 by the end of November.

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Information Centre

- During November the number of visitors increased significantly and was about 50 per day on the average. The visitors were once again mainly young people – high school or university students. Representatives of local government and researchers were also frequent visitors of the IC. EU programmes remained the topic of greatest interest, followed by the conclusions of the Regular Report on Bulgaria’s progress towards accession, EU social policy, especially towards disabled people and the developments at the IGC.
- During the period two info corners functioned at the premises: The Italian Presidency Corner continued to present all recent activities of the EU Presidency and the developments at the IGC. A special arrangement, focused on the negotiation process, was set up in the premises for the Regular Report on Bulgaria’s progress towards accession presentations.

Information events

- November 6, EU Member States economic counsellors meeting.
- November 10, Group visit and lecture - high school students from Lozen village visited the IC to view the documentary “Passion to be free”. The IC director delivered a lecture about youth and education programmes of the EU and presented the IC activities.
- November 11, the Human Resource Development Centre organised a round table debate on the “Role of Social Partners in Continuing Vocational Training”. It was part of the peer review project “Continuing Vocational Training in a Lifelong Learning Context”.
- November 12, Group visit and lecture - representatives of local authorities visited the IC at the end of a training organised by the Institute for Public Administration and European Integration.
- November 13, Presentation of EU funded project “Technical Assistance for the Preparation of a Recruitment and Training Strategy for the Judiciary” implemented by a consortium consisting of British Council, the College of Europe – Belgium and the Asser Institute – The Netherlands. The project provides assistance for the judiciary.

- November 13, Group visit and lecture - students from “Nikola Vapzarov School”, Primorsko, visited the IC for a lecture on young people’s possibilities for participation in EU funded projects.
- November 14, Group visit - Students in the Master programme in European Studies from New Bulgarian University visited the IC to learn about the services it offers and to see a documentary on history of European Integration.
- November 18, Group visit and lecture - students from a Spanish Language class in school who participate in a European Club at their school visited the IC. They learned about the IC activities and received useful materials for their discussions in the club.
- November 19, Group visit and lecture - participants in the “Children and Youth parliament” had a discussion on EU matters.
- November 25, Discussion organised by the Foundation for Local Government Reform development of Instructions for creation of Regional Development Plans and Methodological Guidelines for the Municipal Development Plans.
- November 26, Italian Presidency event - Meeting of Deputy Heads of missions of EU countries.
- November 28, Group visit - Representatives of central government and lawyers taking a course in European Law visited the Information Centre for presentation on its activities and information sources on European law.
- November 28, Group visit and lecture - Students from the American University in Bulgaria had a discussion on European Common and Security policy and Justice and Home Affairs.

Distribution of free information materials

- At the IC premises: The total of all EU information materials from the IC shelves distributed during the period is 4046 (excluding the number of items ordered by organisations, citizens and the online distribution service), 1603 of them were in Bulgarian.
- Distributed information materials (brochures, maps, posters, and leaflets) upon special request to NGOs, media, public administration, libraries, high schools, local authorities, and citizens – 99 packages. A proactive approach for the distribution of the IC's publications – “European Programmes Guide” and “Europe on the Internet” continued.
- Distributed by online ordering service: 33 packages.
- Proactive distribution: Special highlights in the month of November were the latest publications “What Can the Enterprises Expect in the Enlarged EU”, “How the European Union works – a citizen’s guide to the EU institutions” and “How the European Commission works”. A large number of these were distributed to

OSF's Information Centres, Euro-Info Centres, St. Cyril and Methodius National Library, the network of regional libraries and other partner organisations.

Co-operations and partnerships

- During the month of November, the IC continued to develop co-operations with various partners. At the beginning of the month the IC director, together with the press officer of the EC Delegation to Bulgaria took part in a conference "Media in the European Context", organised by the New Bulgarian University.
- An information event was organised in co-operation with the "Bulgarian Children and Youth Parliament Association", on the occasion of the autumn session of the "Children and Youth Parliament". At the event the IC director presented the activities of the centre, possibilities for participation in youth programmes supported by the EU and discussed EU related issues with the participants.
- Later in the month the IC director delivered a speech at the official ceremony on the occasion of the incorporation of the Euro Club at the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the international network of European clubs.
- Partnership with business and local authorities continued to be further developed. The IC director participated in an Info Day organised by the Euro Info Centre in Yambol. There she held a lecture on the EU enlargement process and presented the IC activities and publications in front of representatives of business and local authorities.
- At the conference "Bulgarian Municipalities' participation in structural funds", organised by the Foundation for Local Government Reform the IC director participated as a moderator. She presented the centre's publications and explained how useful they can be in developing projects under EU programmes.
- At the end of the month a discussion for students from American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) was held in the IC. The topics of interest were European Common Foreign and Security policy and Justice and Home Affairs. At the discussion the IC director presented IC activities and together with representatives of the EC Delegation to Bulgaria outlined the main aspects of the two EU policies mentioned above.
- During the month co-operations with IPAEI, Eurointegration Association, Council of Ministers, NABEC and ASME further developed. New publications were exchanged and ideas for joint activities in the future were agreed. "Financing Memoranda Phare, ISPA – 2002", "ABC of the community law" and IC's publications "European Programmes Guide" and "Europe on the Internet" were donated to the IPAEI for the purposes of their training courses for public administration.

Czech Republic

The communication environment

- Of the seven most monitored topics (IGC, single currency, Visegrad Four, acquis related legislation, Benes Decrees, European Parliament and illegal export of weapons), acquis related legislation (30%) was once again the most reported topic, in print, TV and radio. In reaction to the publication of the Comprehensive Monitoring Report this very much followed the high October 2003 trend.
- Of the 8 monitored and most popular media (print, TV, Radio), totaling a print readership of 2 508 746 (approximately 25% of population), Pravo replaced Mlada fronta Dnes in leading the number of written EU related articles. In addition, it is Pravo and Lidove noviny, both dailies, which lead the number of critical issues.
- The data shows that the interest in the ICG decreased. The major drop came in Hospodarske noviny and Cesky rozhlas, Czech radio. Only Blesk, a national tabloid registered an increase in the number of EU related articles.
- The November 5 Comprehensive Monitoring Report received excellent coverage. As the red cards in the Comprehensive Monitoring Report were expected, the overall echo in media was positive.

Media

- Two major press events November were the Monitoring Report Press Conference, which was held on November 5 and a press lunch with Ralf Dreyer and Pavel Němec, the Minister for Regional Development, which took place on November 19.
- November 5, 2003 - Monitoring Report Press Conference: The press conference took place at the EUIC. Over 90 journalists, DEC representatives and delegates from foreign Embassies attended it. Guests were invited to view the live satellite transmission of the Commission giving its report following the presentation of the conclusions of the report for the Czech Republic by Ralf Dreyer.
- The Comprehensive Monitoring Report was a subject of interest for all international and national, as well as regional Czech media. It was known in advance that the Czech Republic belongs to the well-prepared countries. However, the Commission presented three issues that needed to be addressed and solved before accession: recognition of diplomas, adjusting of food processors to the EU hygiene standards and road transportation. A surprise issue was environmental protection. One day before publishing the conclusions of the Comprehensive Monitoring Report, the Czech Chamber of Deputies rejected an amendment required by the EU on environment protection, which would include certain protected areas in the Natura 2000 system. The press reacted sharply, saying that certain MP's succumbed to corruption of foresters and hunters who oppose the Act and fear that it would enforce environmental protection to the detriment of their own interests.

- All of the key dailies, weeklies and radio/TV media covered the monitoring report with great interest. The DEC provided 7 one on one interviews, both before and after the press conference.
- November 19, 2003 - Press Lunch: A press lunch took place with 10 pre-selected journalists. It was an informal discussion between Ralf Dreyer and Pavel Němec, the Minister for Regional Development. The main topic of the discussion was the use of structural funds as well as the level of preparedness of Czech institutions to use the funds that will be made available to the Czech Republic after its accession.

Press releases

- November 10, 2003 – Start of Phare project "Sector Operational Programme Human Resources Development and European Social Fund: Building Implementation Capacity"
- November 11, 2003 – ISPA project "Backup Water Supply Pipe from the Rimov Reservoir to the Water Treatment Plant Plav" finished
- November 11, 2003 – Program Socrates, Week Comenius finished with the press conference in Prague
- November 14, 2003 – Start of Phare project "Upgrading of the WWTP, Sewage System in Aš"
- November 14, 2003 – Phare project "Industrial Zone of Ostrava – Mošnov" completed. November 14, 2003 - Financing Memorandum for the ISPA project "D8 Motorway Prague – Ústí nad Labem" signed
- November 24, 2003 – Phare project "Czech Prison Service in the right direction" completed
- November 25, 2003 - EPSO recruitment of permanent officials for the EU institutions taking place in Prague and Brno

Internet

- 41 741 visitors to the webpage during November. In addition to that, another 3842 visitors visited eu.tiscali.cz web page displaying some of the DEC webpage contents. The total number of visitors to the DEC webpage in November amounts to 45 583 and 416 741 this year.

Conferences/Seminars

- The Delegation contributed financially to the conference "From Rome to Rome and beyond," organised by the Young Europeans in the Senate on 28 November. The conference aimed to discuss the Convention and the IGC with high level speakers, such as Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla, Josef Zieliniec, delegate of the Czech Senat to the Convention and Lenka Rovna alternate to the representative of the Czech government in the Convention. Over 100 students from all over the Czech Republic attended and followed the discussion.

Academic partnership

- The DEC has approved a financial contribution to the University of South Bohemia towards costs of a conference report relating to “The Future of the Czech Republic in the European Union.” On his regional visit to Ceske Budejovice, Chargé d’Affaires Ralf Dreyer held one lecture on Czech Republics preparedness on EU membership, which will be published in the course report.

Regional information events

- As part of the Public Affairs plan, Chargé d’Affaires Ralf Dreyer visited the city of Karlovy Vary on November 11. The day started with a breakfast with the local regional political representative, district city mayors, Senators, Members of Parliament and officials from the Karlovy Vary Regional Council. Topics discussed were tourism in the region, the Energy Policy in the EU as well as the Constitution and road safety issues. This was followed by a meeting with some 30 regional business leaders focusing on EU funding for SMEs and the preparedness of the Region of Karlovy Vary for structural funds. A press conference and an exclusive interview by the HoD followed.
- In the afternoon, the DEC held a Trade Union meeting, followed by an NGO meeting. Almost 40 NGO representatives’ attended and political and social topics such as Roma minority and public private partnership were discussed. The final meeting was a public debate with teachers, students and senior citizens.

EUIC

- Almost all of the EUIC exhibitions were lent to the regions. A panel exhibition on Estonia was installed in the EUIC during November.
- In total 13 lectures about the EU and its enlargement was provided by the EUIC during the month of November.
- Series of EUIC regular public seminars continued. Four seminars took place during November.
- 6 November – Seminar on the EC’s Comprehensive Monitoring Report, given by Christian Bourgin (DEC) - 70 attendees
- 13 November - Seminar on Social aspects of free movement of persons, given by Mr. Michal Meduna from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs - 90 attendees
- 20 November – Seminar on EU funds in the area of industry and support of enterprises, given by Mr. Břetislav Grégr, Ministry of Industry and Trade - 85 attendees
- 27 November – Seminar on Czech Republic before the EU accession and remaining issues presented by Mr. Leopold Maurer (DG Elarg) - 70 attendees

Team Europe

- Two regular bi-weekly meetings at the EUIC with DEC and invited guests took place in November
- 15 TE lectures provided during November
- 12 November – The EC's Comprehensive Monitoring report presented by Christian Bourgin (DEC)
- 14 November, Press conference "Comenius Week" - Socrates agency - 30 attendees
- 19 November – The EU's defense and security policy presented by Mr. Radek Khol from Institute of International Relations
- 28 November, European workshop - Possible implications of the Constitutional Treaty for the EU CFSP - 50 attendees
- Week in Europe/ Týden v Evropě sent weekly to all registered users

Denmark

Media coverage

- Early November's coverage of free movement of labour in connection with the enlargement of the European Union was centered on the Government's new proposal on how to stop "social tourism". The concept covers the possibility that new EU citizens should come to Denmark to gain access to the Danish welfare benefits, including child benefit, unemployment benefit and sick leave pay. Danish welfare benefits are estimated to be vulnerable to abuse, because they are universal and not connected to employee insurance schemes as elsewhere in Europe. This was explained to the readers of Politiken, Information and Weekendavisen, as well as the viewers and listeners of Danish public radio in early November, when the Minister for Labour, Mr. Claus Hjort Frederiksen, was finishing his proposal to limit these benefits to citizens from new Member States. The proposal has not been made public, but is being discussed among the political parties. According to media coverage, the Social Democrats are sure to support these new rules and have been instrumental in proposing some of the tightening measures. The Socialist People's Party has also uttered support, saying that it will be of benefit both to the Danes and the new EU citizens that no doubt can be sowed that they come to work and participate on the Danish labour market. There has been no going back on the promise that the Danish labour market should be open from day one after enlargement, as wished by the Danish People's Party. The Danish People's Party still argues for a seven year transition period, equivalent to the arrangements made by Austria and Germany.
- 13 November 2003 the daily nation-wide newspaper, Jylland-Posten, launched a comprehensive weekly coverage of all the new Member States. The series of articles will run over ten weeks.

- In late November, the Swedish Prime Minister, Göran Persson, called for stricter rules on labour from the new EU countries in Sweden in DR (Danish public radio).
- Coverage in articles from the new Member States is a regular feature in Danish media, i.e. a report on Poland in Jyllands-Posten on 20 November 2003, which sums up how Poland is headed to be one of the most important trading partners for Denmark.
- New languages, the need for interpreters as well as new positions for new Member State nationals have been mentioned, i.e. in Jyllands-Posten on 17 November 2003.
- Polish border control is mentioned in a report in Politiken on 17 November 2003.
- Enlargement can put pressure on the right to abortion, the organisation Sex and Society, which had sponsored a study on abortion in Denmark, said in Jyllands-Posten on 18 November 2003. Along the same line, Commissioner Poul Nielsson has said in the Danish media, that it will be harder to uphold EU aid for family planning in third world countries after enlargement.
- Danish public radio, DR (Danish public radio), has sent several features on the new Member States, including Hungary and Lithuania.

Information events

- The Representation held a combined network event and press briefing on 5 November in connection with the live transmission of Commissioner Verheugen's presentation of the progress reports to the European Parliament. Chief advisor Anne Mette Vestergaard commented on the reports after the presentation. Most embassies of the new Member States and candidate countries were invited and the event was well visited and received.
- The travelling exhibition is being updated and will tour from the middle of November 2003 until 1 May 2004 around a number of major libraries in Denmark. The exhibition stand received from Brussels (DG Enlargement) will be offered to the networks. Already, several libraries have signed up to host the exhibition and spring 2004 is almost fully booked.

Products

- A considerable number of the three thematic folders from DG Enlargement have been distributed. A new folder, linked to the above-mentioned quiz, called "Travelling to the future of Europe", which goes into detail with the work of the European Convention, the IGC, and also mentions the role of the new Member States has been produced and distributed widely.

Other information activities

- The government and opposition have spent some media space debating the IGC, the Danish opt-outs and the option of one or more referenda, including the

possibility of pushing a referendum or referenda to 2005. Enlargement is mentioned as the factor which makes a reform of the EU necessary.

- The European Committee, the Labour Market Committee and the Social Committee of the Danish Parliament held a public hearing on the Danish social and labour market policies in the EU of the future. The hearing was centred on expert and labour market actors' knowledge and opinions.

Estonia

Public opinion

- According to EMOR monthly opinion poll, there have been no considerable changes in attitudes towards the European Union accession since the referendum in September. The support rate stays stable around 65%.

Press releases and articles

- On 5 November, the Delegation issued a press release concerning the Comprehensive Monitoring Report. The news was covered in all major media outlets.
- On 20 November, a press release was issued by the Delegation about the visit of Commissioner Wallström to Estonia. The visit was covered extensively in the press, radio and TV.
- On 25 November, the Delegation placed an article by Commissioner Wallström in Estonia's biggest daily Postimees.

Information Centre

- During the reporting period, the EUIC responded to 258 requests for information from the public.

Information events

- On 2-7 November, an incentive trip took the 10 best volunteers of the Eurobus 2003 project to Rome, the capital of the current EU presidency. The group met with members of the Chamber of Deputies in the Italian Parliament to hear about the ratification process of the accession treaty in Italy and discuss the future of Europe. The programme also included a visit to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to hear about the priorities of the Italian EU Presidency as well as a meeting with representatives of the Young European Federalists of Italy.
- On the occasion of the adoption of the Comprehensive Monitoring Reports by the Commission on 5 November, the Delegation invited journalists and diplomats from the EU25 embassies to a presentation by the Head of Delegation, followed by a press conference. The adoption of the reports received extensive media

coverage in Estonia. It was one of the main news on all three TV channels in the evening of 5 November.

- The EC Representation in Stockholm in co-operation with EC Delegations in Estonia and Latvia set up a special tour to Swedish journalists to these two Baltic countries on 10-12 November 2003. The aim was to introduce how Estonia and Latvia are preparing for EU membership and how the EU has been supporting their preparations. In Tallinn, the new editor-in-chief of the biggest daily newspaper Postimees Mr Tarmu Tammerk briefed the group by giving an overview of the developments in Estonia during the last decade. The next day the group traveled to Narva to visit the border station between Estonia and Russia and to Sillamäe to see the radioactive waste tailing pond re-mediated through EU funds. A briefing was followed by a tour of the pond in a special Soviet-era bus. The group's feedback on the programme in Estonia was very positive.
- On 27 November, the winners of this year's EU Media Award were announced. The award given by the Delegation in co-operation with the Estonian Newspaper Association went to two journalists from the biggest Estonian daily Postimees. From January through September, they wrote a series of feature stories about the expectations and concerns of Estonians from different fields of life. The prize is a trip to the EU Summit on 12-13 December in Brussels. The jury was composed of media experts, the Estonian Government's EU Information Secretariat and the EC Delegation.
- On 28 November, HoD John Kjaer had a briefing and hosted a lunch for a group of EU15 journalists who attended a seminar "Estonia: the EU's New Frontier". The seminar was organised by the European Journalism Centre and Estonian Newspaper Association and funded by EIU.

Internet

- In November, the Delegation's website <http://www.euroopaliit.ee> received almost 44,000 visits. This shows that the usage has stabilised between 43,000 to 46,000 since summer. 39% of visitors moved on from the front page. Most frequently visited pages were News (30%), Monitoring Report 2003 (28%) and publication of the Delegation "Your Rights in the EU" (26%).
- During the reporting period, four weekly electronic newsletters "European Union This Week" were released.

Team Europe

- On 8 November, TEE held a lecture on the future EU: the IGC and EU Constitutional Treaty for 38 students in Narva College.
- On 26 November, TEE held a lecture on EU history and future for 65 pupils and teachers in Jõhvi Russian Gymnasium.
- On 26 November, TEE held a lecture on EU and citizen for 54 pupils and students in Liivalaia Gymnasium.

- On 26 November, TEE held a lecture on EU future for 147 pupils and teachers in Rapla Gymnasium.
- On 28 November, TEE organised an update seminar for its members on recent developments and the future of EU. The discussion concentrated on the draft EU Constitutional Treaty.

Finland

The communication environment

- Discussion on the IGC continued throughout November. In particular, the future of the ESDP and its implications for the Finnish non-aligned policy drew attention. Debates on organising a referendum on the future Constitution also went on. Other issues discussed included the Government's proposal to the Commission on national aid to agriculture, the French and German budget deficits and the EU-Russia Summit.

Public opinion

- An opinion poll carried out by the market research company Taloustutkimus Oy for the EC Representation, the results of which were handed to the Representation in November, shows that 54% of Finns consider the enlargement as such to be a positive thing. Of the respondents, 39% expect its effects on Finland to be positive. The opinions were rather reserved with regard to the effects on agriculture and criminality.
- According to the November Flash Eurobarometer on the European Convention, Finns rank among the best knowledgeable nations on the future Constitution. The general opinion on the Constitution remains rather reserved. The appointment of a long-term President for the European Council remains a problem.

Media

- The Commission's Country Monitoring Reports and the visit of Commissioner Verheugen on 20 November were widely covered and lead to discussion on the achievements of the Acceding and Candidate Countries with regard to the accession requirements. The decision of the Finnish Government on 13 November to lower the corporate and capital income tax rates to ensure Finland's economic competitiveness in the enlarged EU started an intense debate on the tax reform. In general, the emphasis in the public discussion is now clearly more on the positive economic effects of the enlargement. The new Member States are becoming increasingly important trade partners and Finnish enterprises are well positioned in these countries' national markets. The major threat with regard to competition by low-wage countries is increasingly seen as coming from Asia.
- The visit of PM Kasyanov on 17-18 November increased the attention on the importance of Finland's relations with Russia in the enlarged EU and on the need to preserve its expertise on Russia. Co-operation with Russia is highly important

for the protection of the Baltic Sea. Finland also wants to preserve its role as a gateway of trade between the EU and Russia.

Information events

- Commissioner Günter Verheugen spoke on 20 November at the Representation premises on the subject “Enlargement of the EU and Wider Europe”. The event was open to the public and a great success with some 125 attendees, including an important number of representatives of the diplomatic corps and ministries as well as journalists.
- The EC Representation continued its “Europe 2010” series of seminars with a "Europe of Regions 2010" discussion event on Finland's role in the enlarging EU on 3 November in Oulu, northern Finland. The speakers at the event, which was organised in co-operation with the Council of Oulu Region and the EP Information Office, included Dr Teija Tiilikainen of the University of Helsinki, Mr Samuli Pohjamo (MEP) and Ms Piia-Noora Kauppi (MEP). A panel discussion was organised, with the acting Head of Representation Mr Timo Pesonen presiding.
- A second debate on the challenges of the EU’s development aid policy was organised at the Representation premises on 11 November. Mr Pesonen also opened the event. The keynote speaker was Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Ms Paula Lehtomäki. The other participants in the panel discussion organised were Ms Heidi Hautala (MP), Ms Ulpu Iivari (MEP) and Chairman of the Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU (Kehys ry) Ms Helena Laukko. The debate concentrated on the effects of the enlargement on the EU’s development aid policy, the failure of the Cancún negotiations and the important role of NGOs in development aid. The event attracted some 85 attendees, who participated actively in the discussion.
- The EC Representation and the EP Information Office organised a seminar for Finnish journalists on the future of the enlarged EU in Riga and Cesis, Latvia, from 24 to 26 November. The issues discussed included the opportunities and challenges of Latvia's membership, the IGC, fight against corruption, minority questions, and the Finnish-Latvian relations. The speakers were high-level Latvian and Finnish personalities including the Latvian Minister for Special Assignments for Society Integration Affairs Mr Nils Muižnieks, former Latvian Ambassador to Finland Ms Anna Zigure, and the Finnish Ambassador to Latvia Ms Kirsti Eskelinen. Twenty-six journalists participated, representing widely the main national and regional media.
- Journalists were also informed on enlargement by an event organised on 6 November by the journalists' association of Savo-Kainuu region (Savo-Kainuun Journalistiyhdistys ry) in Kuopio, eastern Finland. The EC Representation’s Press Officer Ms Marjatta Hautala spoke at the event about the enlarging and changing EU.
- The Representation continued to distribute its "Europlus" brochure on the enlargement of the EU and the Acceding and Candidate Countries to schools. The

brochure aims at 12 to 13-year-old children, but many schools are using it more widely.

Internet

- Debate on enlargement continued on the Finnish Government's website forum (www.minuneurooppa.fi). The discussion focused on the advantages and disadvantages of enlargement, in particular with regard to trade and travelling.
- Information on enlargement continued to be provided through the websites of the EC Representation (www.eukomissio.fi), the Finnish Info Point Europe (IPE) network of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (www.eurooppa-tiedotus.fi) and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) (www.upi-fia.fi).

Products

- The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA) published a doctor's thesis defended at the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration in November and entitled "Locational Sources of Competitiveness: Finnish Companies' International Business Operations in the Baltic Sea Region". Competitiveness of the Finnish economy and the effects of the enlargement are "hot" topics in Finland. The author comes to the conclusion that most of Finnish companies' competitive advantages come from their domestic activities and not from abroad.
- The publication of articles resulting of the financial support by the EC Representation to journalists for visits to Acceding Countries continued with a vast article on Latvia. The article described the feelings of Latvians as their country is going from one union to another and presented Finnish business activities in Latvia.

Information Centre

- The EC Representation's and the EP Information Office's joint Info Point continued to inform the public on enlargement as usual. Most of the numerous enlargement related inquiries concern the application of the free movement provisions to the Acceding Countries and other practical matters affecting the every day life of citizens.
- The Finnish IPE network continued its "Fact and Fiction about the EU's Acceding Countries" series of exhibitions organised in collaboration with municipal libraries around the country. The following events were organised:
 - 6 October – 8 November: Hamina, south-eastern Finland.
 - 6 October – 3 November: Taivalsalo, south-western Finland.
 - 20 October – 7 November: Ilomantsi, eastern Finland.
 - 24 October – 21 November: Askola, southern Finland.

- 3 – 29 November: events in Espoo, Vihti and Nurmijärvi, southern Finland.
- 3 – 26 November: Kustavi, south-western Finland.
- 4 – 15 November: Savonlinna, eastern Finland.
- 6 November: Seminar on the future of the EU's structural funds and the effects of the enlargement for agriculture in the Oulu region, Oulu, northern Finland jointly organised by Carrefour Jokilaaksot and IPE Pohjois-Pohjanmaa.
- 17 – 30 November: Hämeenlinna, southern Finland.
- 21 November – 18 December: Pukkila, southern Finland.

Other information activities

- The European Movement in Finland (www.eurooppalainenensuomi.fi) continued its series of information events for the general public called "Enlarge your knowledge" with events on 15 and 16 November in Helsinki and on 22 and 23 November in Turku (south-western Finland). Ms Astrid Thors (MEP) spoke at the Helsinki event about the effects of enlargement on the work of the European Parliament, acting Head of Representation Timo Pesonen concentrated on its implications for the Commission. Other speakers at the event included Ms Heidi Hautala (MP) and Counsellor Toomas Kahur of the Embassy of Estonia. Among the speakers of the Turku event were Ambassador of Latvia Mr Valdis Krastins, professor Esko Antola of the University of Turku and Mrs Ulpu Iivari (MEP).
- The Bank of Finland Institute for Economies in Transition (BOFIT) organised a seminar on the Baltic States on 27 November. Former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Finland Mr Esko Ollila spoke about the conclusions of a report published on 7 May by him and former Estonian Ambassador to Finland Mr Jaak Jõerüüt on improving the co-operation between Finland and Estonia following the enlargement. The seminar also focused on the state of the economies of the Baltic States and their future outlook.

Information activities related to the Convention

- The EC Representation and the Government Information Unit organised a seminar on the IGC for journalists on 26 November. The event was opened by PM Matti Vanhanen who presented the Government's views on the progress of the IGC as well as on some of the key elements remaining to be discussed. Spokesman Reijo Kemppinen presented the point of view of the Commission. The other speakers included State Secretary Antti Peltomäki of the Government Secretariat for EU Affairs, Mr Kimmo Kiljunen (MP and representative of Finland to the European Convention), and Project Manager Peter Ekholm of the Finnish National Fund for Research and Development (Sitra). The Representation also organised a roundtable for researchers on the future of the ESDP on 19 November. Twenty researchers and specialists from ministries participated.

France

Environnement de la campagne

- Sur l'agenda européen, les questions économiques et monétaires occupent le devant de la scène, ainsi que les questions relatives aux négociations en cours au sein de la CIG sur le projet de constitution, dans la perspective du Conseil européen de Bruxelles.

Médias

- L'intérêt médiatique pour l'élargissement en novembre se concentre sur deux événements :
- 1) la publication au début du mois des rapports réguliers 2003 de la Commission, qui a suscité bien moins d'intérêt que l'année précédente, et a été souvent rapportée à travers l'exemple de la Pologne
- 2) le vote par l'Assemblée nationale de la loi de ratification du traité d'Athènes, principalement rapporté selon le prisme de la politique intérieure. La tonalité des commentaires, globalement assez réservée, souligne les inquiétudes multiformes de l'opinion française face aux adhésions et le manque d'enthousiasme des parlementaires malgré les déclarations publiques
- La perspective de l'Union élargie est systématiquement présente à l'esprit des médias, notamment dans les commentaires sur le déroulement de la conférence intergouvernementale, mais également à l'occasion des controverses sur l'application et la réforme du pacte de stabilité et de croissance.
- Le commissaire Verheugen a donné un entretien au quotidien Libération (5 novembre) et a publié une tribune à la Une du journal Le Monde (26 novembre) à l'occasion du débat sur la ratification du traité d'Athènes à l'Assemblée nationale.

Initiatives particulières

- France Info a inauguré une opération de découverte des 10 pays entrants, les « Jeudis de l'Europe » par une journée spéciale consacrée à la Pologne (6 novembre) avant la République tchèque (13 novembre), la Lituanie (20 novembre) et la Slovaquie (27 novembre). L'initiative, qui se traduit par des éclairages diversifiés (politique, économie, culture, faits de société) sur les pays en passe d'adhérer, et de nombreux témoignages de personnalités francophones, fait l'objet d'un partenariat éditorial avec l'hebdomadaire Le Point.
- Le magazine d'information C dans l'air (France 5) a consacré une émission à l'élargissement (« Europe : L'est passe à l'Ouest ») (25 novembre), ainsi qu'une édition intitulée « la Turquie, candidat explosif » (19 novembre).

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

- Espace Europe Toulon Méditerranée : des actions animations (jeu pour les enfants, assemblées de citoyens pour les adultes) ont eu lieu durant les congés

scolaires de la Toussaint (Beaucaire, Sainte-Musse), ainsi que les 28 et 29 novembre (La Rode).

- Confédération générale du travail : un premier séminaire d'information sur les enjeux sociaux de l'élargissement (centré sur la question des discriminations au travail) s'est déroulé à Montreuil-sous-Bois le 17 novembre, en présence d'une trentaine de responsables syndicaux ;

Mise en œuvre de la stratégie de communication du gouvernement

- Le quotidien gratuit « Métro », en partenariat avec le Service d'information du gouvernement (SIG), a publié dans le courant du mois une série de reportages d'une page sur chaque pays entrant, à la validation desquels la Représentation a été associée.
- Les scénari de programmes courts sur les pays adhérents, intitulés « Bienvenue en Europe », qui devront être diffusés début 2004 sur les chaînes de France Télévision, ont été approuvés. Les premiers tournages ont débuté et la Représentation a visionné une première série de 25 films, qui se sont avérés de bonne qualité.
- L'association Civisme et démocratie (CIDEM) a mis en place, avec le soutien du SIG et du Bureau d'information du Parlement européen pour la France, un « Espace Europe » sur le site du Salon de l'Education (26 au 29 novembre) à Paris.
- Dans le cadre de son partenariat stratégique avec les autorités françaises, la Représentation a progressé dans la mise en place des éléments budgétaires et administratifs de deux opérations de diffusion de documents d'information dans les établissements scolaires (impression et diffusion de 221 000 exemplaires d'une carte de l'Union élargie, mise en ligne sur le site de la Représentation de la brochure « Europe 2004 », adaptée de « Europlus », réalisé par le Bureau de Londres), sur lesquelles elle a reçu le visa politique de la DG ELARG.

Germany

Media coverage

- Over the last month the media coverage remained focussed on the debate of the EU constitution. In particular weighting voting/double majority in the Council, the future size of the Commission and the reference to god/religion continued to be highly controversial.
- Following a series of terrorist attacks in Istanbul the debate on Turkey's accession to the EU flared up again. There has been coverage of the run-up to the elections in the Turkish part of Cyprus.
- In the period before the summit in Brussels, editorials have generally argued the constitutional debate was explicitly characterised by questions of institutional power and about who is likely to wield it in future.

- In the days following the summit, the coverage remained rather critical. It has become clear that the enlargement to 25 members has made further deepening of the EU impossible. (FAZ, FR, WELT, FTD) The European integration by means of redistribution has reached its limits wrote "FAZ".
- On the other hand, "HB" argued that the situation following the summit represented a chance to introduce the "adequate realism" to the debate on Europe. "taz" wrote that the debate could finally begin. In the end there should be a Europe-wide referendum on the constitution.
- On enlargement the coverage mainly focussed on the possibility of Turkey joining the EU. Editorials in "SZ" and "WELT" argued that terrorism and EU-membership must not be mingled.
- AV-media covered more or less the issues as the print media did.

Co-operations with the media

- On November 5, the representation in Berlin together with the Cypriot Embassy organised a panel discussion: „10 plus – Ein Europa“. Zypern: Griechenland, Türkei und Zypern – Ungelöste Konflikte in der EU.“ (Cyprus, Greece, Turkey: unsolved conflicts). In Co-operation with Public Radio Deutschlandfunk, European Parliament and Berlin's daily „Tagesspiegel“. Deutschlandfunk transmits the 45 minutes lasting discussion as the highlight of a programme broadcast once per month dedicated to one particular accession country.
- A training seminar for journalists jointly prepared by the Commission's representation in Munich, the Academy for Political Education Tutzing and the Institute for the Training of Journalists at the University of Passau took place from 10 to 12 November in Passau. 20 journalists from regional newspapers in Bavaria and the Czech Republic attended the seminar. Enlargement, the Convention, migration of workers and security aspects were the main subjects treated.

Information events

- Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger organised a meeting with their Turkey correspondent in Cologne on 6 November, titled "Turkey on its difficult way to Europe". Main subject of the discussion was Turkey's accession to the EU. 210 attendants.
- The Representation in Berlin organised three panel discussions on enlargement in schools, with a member of the European Parliament (November 7, Berlin); and Hans Martin Bury, State Secretary (November 11, Berlin).
- On November 7, the Representation in Berlin together with the Heinz-Schwarzkopf-Foundation organised as part of their series "Europe in the 21st Century" a panel discussion with Jo Leinen, MEP, who spoke about the draft of the European Constitution and the perspectives for further integration.
- On 07 November the Vocational School Centre in Sulzbach-Rosenberg held a one-day training course for teachers of civics in the district of Upper Palatinate. Approx. 30 teachers participated in the course on enlargement, the Convention

and the reform of the European institutions (also with involvement of the Munich Representation and MEPs).

- In co-operation with the political foundation Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, the Commission's representation in Munich organised an economic seminar on enlargement from 7 to 9 November 2003. Approx. 20 attendants.
- On 10 November, the Representation in Bonn organised a full day symposium in co-operation with the Society for European Social politics, Bonn, the Technical College Rhein-Sieg and the Federation of commercial trade associations on "The new EU Convention and European Social Policy". The conference was under the patronage of Northrhine-Westphalian science and research minister Mrs Hannelore Kraft. About 160 people attended this symposium.
- On the occasion of their national day on 11 November, the Polish community organised an event in Aachen with speeches on enlargement by Aachen's Lord Mayor and the head of Poland's Consulate. About 300 guests.
- On 12 November, the Representation in Bonn in co-operation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Society for Foreign Politics) organised a conference and discussion in Bonn on "The enlarged European Union-perspectives after the Iraq war". 180 people attended.
- On 17 November the Commission's representation in Munich organised a panel discussion in co-operation with the City of Erlangen, regarding the possibilities in the economic area of Middle Franconia created by enlargement.
- On 25 November the Political Academy Tutzing organised a seminar for around 35 consumer advisors, focusing on consumer protection in view of enlargement.
- On 27 November, the Euro Info Centre in Landesgewerbeanstalt (State's Trade Institute) Nuremberg organised an international co-operation event "West-East Business Partnership" (co-financed by DG ELARG) for small and medium-sized enterprises in Nuremberg. The Head of the Commission's representation in Munich welcomed the approx. 200 participants from eight different countries.
- On 28 November, the Thomas-Morus Academy in Bonn organised a conference on the subject of "The European Integration – consequences for the principle of democracy and constitutional state and the interpretation of the basic rights", held by Bonn university professor and constitutional judge Mr Udo di Fabio, moderated by the chief editor of General-Anzeiger. 50-60 participants. Coverage in General-Anzeiger.
- On the same day, on the invitation of the Westphalian city of Beckum, Northrhine-Westphalian State Secretary for European Affairs Prof. Miriam Meckel, held a panel discussion with the title "New perspectives in our common Europe: Enlargement of the European Union". About 100 participants.

Information Centres and Relays

- 08-09 November, Carrefour Lower-Saxony/ Weser-Ems attended a final conference within the framework of the PARTNER Thematic Network in Budapest, Hungary. The discussion was about key aspects of the innovation policy of the European Union and how to implement strategies on regional level. 160 participants attended the conference. Continuing the project of International Internships (related to the Training in Horticulture, Agriculture, Forestry and Housekeeping) an exchange under the motto "Development Possibilities of the Professional Training in Agriculture and Horticulture in Lower Silesia" took place in Walbrzych, (Waldenburg) 17 –18 November. 34 representatives of Polish professional training centres, Saxonian training centres and the Carrefour Saxonia participated.
- 23-24 November, the Carrefour Lower Saxony/Weser-Ems supported a meeting of 11 Polish Voivodships in Nikolajki, Poland, to discuss the European Concept towards the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS). The meeting was organised by the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Science, Warszawa. The Carrefour's part was to explain the methodology of the concept and the leading of a workshop.
- 25-26 November in Nikolajki, Poland, a meeting of 50 participants from 21 poviats of the Region Warminsko Mazurskie took place, drafting out a strength and weakness profile.
- 26 –28 November, Carrefour Saxonia organised two work visits of altogether 28 administrative employees from Wojewodschaft Oppeln/Poland in Saxony. Topics were public affairs in administration (1st attendance) and the development of tourism in regions with weak structures (2nd attendance).
- Within the context of an information campaign for enlargement, the Carrefour Lüneburg organised the project "Euro pass" in co-operation with the "Bildungs- und Tagungszentrum Ostheide (BTO)" in November 2003. The aim was to inform students and graduates from secondary school about the variety of programmes supported by the EU and about the possibilities young people may have in an enlarged European community. More than 80 pupils attended. Regional press reported about the project and the event.

Information activities related to the Convention

- A two-day congress labelled „Days of the constitution“ („Verfassungstage“) was held in Frankfurt/Main. After a scientific conference („Walter-Hallstein-Symposium“) on November 5 at the University, a congress took place at the Paulskirche the following day. Among others the president of the European Convent Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the President of the European Parliament Pat Cox, the Prime Minister of Luxemburg Jean-Claude Juncker and EU-Commissioner Günther Verheugen delivered speeches.
- On 06 November 2003 the second event of the series „European Dialogue“ (public debates on enlargement and future of Europe) took place in Munich with member of the Convention Professor Jürgen Meyer participating in co-operation with the adult education centre Münchner Volkshochschule and the Bayerischer Rundfunk.

- On November 7, the Social Democratic Party of the Berlin district „Mitte“ organised a panel discussion on the situation in Europe after the completion of the Convention’s work.
- In Berlin, a German-French Conference on the future of the EU and as a judgement of the Convent’s work was organised by the Walter-Hallstein Institute of the Humboldt University on 7th and 8th November.
- On 10 November the German-French Society and Research Centre Cäsar in Bonn had MEP Elmar Brok as their guest to speak about “Europe on its Way to a Constitution”.
- On November 10, a panel discussion “A European Constitution – New impulses for gender mainstreaming?” was organised in Göttingen by women’s representatives from the University of Göttingen, from the City of Göttingen and the district of Göttingen in co-operation with the “European Information-Centre” (EIZ) Lower Saxony. Members of the European Parliament and the European Convention, representatives from the German Department for Foreign Affairs and the “European Women Lawyers Association” (EWLA) participated.
- A Panel Discussion on public opinion on the draft European Constitution was organised by the European Mo (with MPs’ participation).
- On November 13, Polish Minister for European Affairs, Danuta Hübner, spoke to 250 guests about “The Polish view on the EU-Constitution“. The speech was held on the premises of the Berlin Representation.
- On 24 November the Commissions representation in Munich held its 14th Big Relay Meeting in the town hall of Munich. Its aim was to inform the commissions’ multipliers about the draft of the European convention. The meeting was organised in co-operation with the City of Munich. 110 people attended.
- On November 25th, Guy Verhofstadt held a lecture on the constitution at the Humboldt University in Berlin. 400 people attended.
- In Osnabrück the discussion forum “Does a European Constitution provide a basis for social justice in Europe?” took place on November 28. It was carried out by the University of Osnabrück, the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB) and “Work and Life” Lower Saxony. Among the participants were members of the European Parliament and of the European Convention as well as scientists and representatives from various social institutions and the “European Information Centre” (EIZ) Lower Saxony. About 150 guests.

Hungary

The communications environment

- The transfer of the MoFA Information Team to the PMO on 15 November confirmed the developments concerning the concentration of information activity

in the Prime Minister's Office. The ex-MoFA team is responsible to Minister Peter Kiss, the EUKK is nominally under European Affairs Minister Juhasz, and the NDPO team, under Ms Dobrev works to Etele Barath. All three bodies addressed the national Information Providers meeting, which was held on 11 November and attracted over 100 participants.

- On 10 November, a large team from DG ELARG and DG PRESS started a weeklong visit to the Delegation to discuss its transformation to a Representation.

Press releases

- EU provides development aid to third countries – new opportunities for Hungarian NGOs and Hungarian companies
- The European Personnel Selection Office runs the first competitions in the framework of enlargement
- The European Commission PHARE Anti Money Laundering Project – General Conference
- Commission underlines success at 2003 ITU World Radiocommunications Conference
- Ambassador Jürgen Köppen pays a three-day official visit to Bacs-Kiskun and Csongrad County
- The Delegation of the European Commission to Hungary has launched a call for proposal in the framework of its communication programme
- Research: EU to finance projects worth €5 billion
- Survey shows EU Citizens favour globalisation
- Invitation to 2nd Annual Meeting of Hungarian EU-Information Providers - 11 November 2003
- Acceding countries expected to be ready for accession, urged to tackle remaining issues
- Monitoring Report 2003 on Hungary and Enlargement Strategy Paper

Press conferences

- Press Conference on the Monitoring Report
- Press Conference on the 2nd Annual Meeting of Hungarian EU-Information Providers
- Press Conference on the closing of the Phare Anti-Money Laundering Programme
- Press Conference on the visit of Director General Giorgio Bonacci

Co-operations with the media

- EU Press Attaches Meeting - The meeting of the EU Press Attache focused on the fate of the EC Delegation and EU Information providers after 1 May 2004, the functions of the future representation, the concours and posts available for Hungarians. Finally, the public perception of the EU in Hungary has also been touched upon.
- 22-26 November - The five-day seminar for journalists was organised according to the Delegation's Communication Work Programme. The aim of the seminar was to enable journalists to get better trained in special areas of European integration, to provide them with deeper and more detailed information on specific EU topics and to enable the Delegation and the journalists to build and keep good contact with each other. As after the accession regional media will become even more important, especially in the communication of the Structural Funds, this time the group was composed of mostly regional journalists and topics like regional development and structural funds were also included into the programme. The group has visited the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, the Europe by Satellite and the Hungarian Mission. They received first-hand information on topical issues of the EU, like the IGC or the CAP reform as well as on the working mechanisms of the institutions from officials of the EU Institution and Hungarian diplomats.

Interviews

- Interview of Giorgio Bonacci with MTV, EU News and Vilaggazdasag
- Interview of Linda Corugedo Steneberg to RTL Klub, Antenna
- Interview of Thomas Glaser to Hungarian Radio English Section
- Interview of Jürgen Köppen on the monitoring report to RTL Klub, Evening News, to TV2, Evening News, to MTV, Economic News, to MTV, EU-News, to MTV, ESTE, to Radio C, to Budapest Sun, to Diplomacy and Trade
- Interview of Jürgen Köppen on regional development to the Finish Public TV
- Interview of Jürgen Köppen with Mattheidesz Konrad, Hegyvidek

Information events

- 29 October–2 November - A 5-day training was organised for local governments' officials in order to widen their knowledge on general Community affairs as well as on regional policy. The trip was fruitful from various aspects. First of all the officials could get direct pieces of information regarding their fields and competences. Moreover networks and working relations were established between regional representative bodies and them.
- 4 November - The topic of the November's Jour Fixe was "What are the limits of the EU? Future integration". The panel involved Ms. Lebibe Gülhan Ulutekin, Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy; Mr. Marco Di Ruzza, Counsellor at the Italian

Embassy; Prof. Dr. Ferenc Miszlivetz, Academic; and the moderator was Ms. Lívía Losonczy from the Hungarian Television. Croatian Assistant Minister of EU Integriation, Ms. Marija Pejéinovič Burić participated in this discussion, since at the same time, a poster exhibition took place in the Merlin International Theatre on the future of Europe, which was organised by the Croatian Embassy, the EU Delegation and the Theatre.

- 5 November - A half-day information day was organised for pupils aged 16-18 on the Community's youth programs, scholarship and student exchange opportunities. Besides the representative of the Delegation, members of the Information Centre – ETK, Mobilitas and Tempus Foundations were also present. The latter two handle Community youth programs in Hungary. About 70 pupils came to the event and both the presentations and the afternoon workshops were successful.
- 11 November - The annual meeting of EU information providers was held in Budapest on 11 November, with the attendance of 126 people from a variety of EU information-related bodies. Presentations were made by the three bodies concerned with EU information at national level (MoFA team, EUKK and NDPO) by the Delegation, by Mr de Lobkowicz of DG ELARG and by Ms Corugedo-Steneberg of DG PRESS. It was the first occasion for the delegates to hear of the future of EU information after Hungary's membership. The future would be rather different, and would by nature be more reliant on funding from national sources. As a counterbalance, a number of core Commission services would become available to Hungarians in the run-up to membership (Europe Direct, EbS, etc).
- 20-22 November - The regional visit of the HoD was paid to the region of Szeged and Csongrad County and its surrounding. During the three-day-visit he met the president and deputies of Csongrad County Council as well as the mayor and his deputies. Moreover, he had the opportunity to meet the mayor of Kecskemet and Bekescsaba, the County president of Bekes and the deputy County president of Bacs-Kiskun.
- Furthermore, meetings were held with the representatives of the Regional Development Agency and with the Chief of the Csongrad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The HoD delivered public speeches to the university students and to the mayors of the Csongrad County. The HoD gave interviews and attracted the attention of the media.
- Four Phare projects were visited, a prison project in Nagyfa, a women's reintegration program in Szeged, and an industrial park as well as a thermal bath at Morahalom. These latter proved that a lot of developments could be carried out if a local community and its mayor are energetic and devoted to development. Based on the feedbacks given by the members of the County Council and the new connections established, it was a successful visit.
- 24 November - A weeklong forum on "Tolerance" was organised in the high school of Ocsa, Pest County. Special lectures were devoted to the topic of "Tolerance in the European Union". Within this framework a youth forum and a

debate were organised. The youth forum according to the requests of the teachers, dealt with general EU introduction and the possibilities and opportunities of youth after the EU accession. The debate was about the tolerance and multicultural values in the enlarged Union. Both seminars were well attended and the pupils aged 15-18 showed great interest for the topics raised.

Products

- Reprints of FAQ leaflets

Information Centre

- In the framework of the IC's monthly lecture series „Let's talk about Europe” the November event was organised in co-operation with the EU related information office for local governments recently established by the Ministry of Interior. They informed participants from the 19 Budapest district governments about tender possibilities. 28 officials from district administration attended the event and the following discussion.
- IC participated with a stand at a conference on Schengen organised by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior. 400 law enforcing officers attended the event.
- IC joined the European Commission stand at EDUCATIO, a four-day educational exhibition in Budapest taking place every year.
- IC hosted one of the regular meetings for press attaches from Member States organised by the Delegation.
- IC Director made a visit to the Call Centre set up by the Foreign Ministry to reinforce close co-operation. The Call Centre offered IC appreciated the offer made by the Call Centre to use their internal database where all answers are saved.
- The Centre received two student groups from Hungarian colleges, a group of secondary school students, a Delegation from Scotland on a study tour in Hungary, and a representative of the Dutch Trade Agency to find out about tender possibilities for Dutch companies.
- Presentations given at events:
 - lecture on EU information sources at Pest Information Point
 - lecture on lobbying
 - lecture at Kulturpont
 - conference on free movement of labour in Pécs
 - Educational conference in Salgotarjan
 - Presentation on Educational and Youth Programmes at a big Youth event - „Kopogtató” - in Várpalota

- Lecture at NIOK NGO Association on tender possibilities

Publications

- Up-date of Internet address booklet and brochure on EU information sources in Hungary
- Revision of fact sheets and up-date of tender possibilities publication

Other information activities

- All regional events were organised in co-operation of the European Information Points network.
- Public speeches given by information staff members:
 - 7 November, Speech at Press Attaches meeting
 - 11 November, Speech at Information Providers Meeting
 - 12 November, Speech at EUKK Curatorium meeting
 - 14 November, Speech at Italian Presidency Contientalia meeting
 - 15 November, Speech at AEJ Hungarian section meeting
 - 21 November, Speech at EUKK Round Table on EU Communication
 - 24 November, Speech at '160 nap a start elott' conference, Debrecen
 - 25 November, Speech at Europa Ante Portas press conference
 - 26 November, Speech at launch of Europa Ante Portas, Pecs

Latvia

The communication environment

- The Central Election Commission prepares for European Parliament elections.
- On 7 November 2003 the Baltic Song and Dance Celebrations were proclaimed as masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of the humanity and added to the UNESCO list of the world intangible heritage.
- November in Latvia was spent under the mark of the 85th anniversary of Latvia's independence. Celebration of the anniversary took place on November 18.

Media

- The main topics in media in November concerning European Affairs:

- Management, administration of Structural funds. Latvia's redlines to administrate structural funds.
- Possibilities to use EU funding in different areas.
- Recruitment of Latvian administrators for work in Brussels.
- European Parliament elections.
- Latvian farmers' activities in registration for direct payments.
- Increase of naturalisation after results of referendum on September 20.

Press releases

- November 3, Press conference about EC Monitoring report
- November 5, Country Monitoring reports, Comprehensive Monitoring Report, Regular reports and Strategy paper
- November 11, Seminar about culture in the EU and programme Culture 2000 in the EUIC
- November 12, EU Information day in Valka
- November 13, Explore Europe Contest in Valmiera organised in co-operation with the ESU
- November 19, Seminar of the Luther Academy "State and church in Latvia Europe"
- November 21, Regional information day in Bauska
- November 26, SPP contest
- November 26, EPSO competitions
- November 27, Contest "Explore Europe!" in Saldus
- November 28, Visit of Mr. Rasbash to Latgale region

Press conferences

- November 5, Press conference about EC Monitoring report
- November 27, Meeting with journalists

Articles

- Communication with newspaper "Diena" regarding the article by Ieva Zauberga on interpreters

Information events

- Regional Information days and events in Tukums, Rezekne, Valka, and Bauska have taken place in November.
- EU Information event was organised for the pupils of Tukums reg. Dzirciema Boarding School on 05.11.2003. Presentation about EU history, institutions and countries were delivered to the pupils. After the presentation questions about social policy and youth possibilities for the youth were asked.
- Seminar “What should be done to Receive Money from EU Funds?” has taken place in Rezekne on 06.11.2003. Information about EU funds available for Latvia at the moment and funds available after EU accession was given to the audience. Experience in receiving funds by those who already received money from PHARE, SAPARD, CULTURE 2000 funds was shared with the audience.
- Information Days have taken place in Valka on 13.11.2003 and in Bauska on 25.11.2003. The Information Days included lectures about EU Regional Policy, EU information and a lecture about a successful SAPARD project. A discussion with the pensioners about EU Information was organised in Valka’s library.

Promotion of EU financial instruments

- Euro funding catalogue is available in EUIC.
- Seminars on “EU funding” in the EUIC. 2 seminars about EU funding have been organised during November.
- Seminar about EU financial instruments in co-operation with LGTC in Rēzekne.

TV programmes

- Since the beginning of March every Tuesday stories about EU, myths, policies, opinions etc in the morning LTV1 programme “TV Rīts” have been prepared and broadcast. In November the last programme has been broadcast on environment development and protection.
- Since the beginning of March every Friday stories about EU, myths, policies, opinions etc in the LNT morning programme “LNT Brokastis” have been prepared and broadcast. In November four programmes have been broadcast on the following topics: 1) EC monitoring report, 2) opinion polls, 3) How has the public opinion changed? 4) European Affairs Bureau, ECD and EML – plans for the next year.

Internet

- Web site: www.eiropainfo.lv
- Number of the home page visitors: November – 1717, December – 1062, January – 1281, February 1850, March – 2206, April – 2522, May – 2404, June – 1584, July – 1536, August - 1179, September – 2154, October – 3208, November –

3595, December – 2873, January - 5044, February 6030, March – 6803, April – 6435, May – 7384, June – 4813, July – 3414, August – 3543, September – 6690, **November – 6107.**

Products

- EC Delegation newsletter “Sveiks Eiropā!” (Hello in Europe!) - Printed November issue and Team Europe insert.
- Supplement to main Russian business newspaper “Bizness Baltija” - During November five inserts have been printed on topics: workers, tourism, culture, street sellers, craftsmen, auto mechanists, fishermen and food producers.
- Informative materials/fact sheets - Production of 20 fact sheets for professions.
- All the fact sheets printed. Additional printing of fact sheets.

Promotional materials

- Promotional materials have been prepared: T-shirts, caps, calendars, and notebooks.

Information Centre

- Two seminars “What should be done to Receive Money from EU Funds” have taken place at EUIC on 06.11.2003 and 20.11.2003.
- Two seminars about Culture in EU and Programme Culture 2000 have been organised in EUIC on 4.11.2003. Information about Internet sources in the Europe server about culture was given to the audience. Priorities and guidelines in Culture 2000 as well as successfully implemented projects were also presented in the seminar.
- Lecture for Riga School of Railway Workers has taken place on 07.11.2003. Basic information about the history of the EU, policies and enlargement of EU. After the presentation many questions were asked about possibilities for the youth.
- Lecture for Riga Section of the Pensioners Federation was organised on 11.11.2003 at EUIC. Information about actual topics in the relations of EU Latvia was presented to the public.
- Lecture for Riga English Gymnasium has taken place on 12.11.2003. Basic information about the history of the EU, policies and enlargement of EU.
- Seminar for Team Europe members was organised on 15.11.2003. Lectures about EU Constitution, EU Structural Funds for Latvia and forthcoming EU Parliament Elections were presented.

Other information activities

- European Integration Bureau has been liquidating. As of December 2003 functions of the European Integration Bureau are being implemented by European Affairs bureau created under the supervision of the PM.
- Mission of the EU Parliament in Latvia started to function more actively.
- Ministries of Latvia have started active functioning in the sphere of administration of EU Structural funds. Working out of information strategies.

Lithuania

The communication environment

- EU Summit and its failure to adopt the European Constitution attracted the attention of the media.

Public opinion

- According to a poll conducted by Vilmorus in November, 74,4 % of Lithuanian population support Lithuania's membership in the EU, 14,7 % are against it and 10,9% have no opinion.

Media

- Media attention to the presidential crisis dominated the scene and prevailed over all other issues.

Press releases

- Information about the visit of Director General of the DG Competition Mr. Philip Lowe
- Signing of financial memoranda

Interviews

- Head of Delegation gave several interviews to the national and foreign media.
- An interview of Mr Lowe with a business daily has been arranged.

Co-operation with the media

- Joint project with the blind is continuing. A monthly supplement on EU matters is issued in Braille.

Information events

- The Delegation co-operated with the Socrates Programme in organising the Comenius Week events all over Lithuania. A special poster has been published. Head of Delegation and Press Officer as well as the Director of Information

Centre took part in the events in the country. The events were organised in 10 counties of Lithuania. All participants of the Comenius programme projects were invited to attend the events and to present the projects and problems related. When presenting the projects, participants emphasised that the projects had doubtlessly been useful for teachers, children and schools, and made them to re-think and re-evaluate the process of teaching and learning. In many cases, the contacts established with the partners in various countries did not cease after the projects ended, which helps develop other projects and new ideas in the enlarged EU. A Panevezys school for disabled children was among the participants of Comenius projects and children with disabilities attended the event.

- The knowledge of foreign languages is essential in communicating with partners. However, it is difficult to find teachers (mathematics, biologists, etc.) who know foreign languages. Socrates (Comenius) foundation is encouraging non-linguist teachers to attend the projects. An important observation made by many participants is that they felt completely equal with their colleagues from Member States, also regarding their organisational skills. Another conclusion made by many participants was that they learned to use new technologies. In particular, they created presentations, websites, recorded CDs, carried out the polls etc.
- Head of Delegation, Head of Phare and ISPA Section and other staff of Delegation made presentations in various seminars and conferences.

Publications

- A special agenda/calendar has been published. Besides the usual information the agenda also contains information about the EU information network in Lithuania, the main dates of EU history, the data about EU Member States, new Member States and candidate countries. The agenda has been offered as a special gift to journalists and other contact persons in various institutions, NGOs, etc. It is for the first time in Lithuania that such an agenda with the EU information was published.
- Translation of 1) Comprehensive Monitoring Report on Lithuania's Preparedness for Membership and 2) Comprehensive Monitoring Report of the European Commission on the State of Preparedness for EU Membership to Lithuanian started. English versions have been placed on the website of the Delegation.
- New publications from various publishing houses were ordered for the library of the Information Centre of the Delegation. The Information Centre is updating the stocks of academic books on EU policies permanently.

Newsletter

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

Luxembourg

L'environnement de communication

- Tandis que la Chambre des députés, le Conseil d'État et les chambres consultatives se penchent actuellement sur l'examen du projet de loi approuvant le Traité d'Athènes, les visites bilatérales ont constitué le point fort lors de la période sous revue. L'actualité a été dominée par la présentation des rapports intermédiaires sur la préparation des Etats candidats à l'adhésion dans l'UE.

L'opinion publique

- L'opinion publique luxembourgeoise reste partagée sur son adhésion à l'élargissement de l'UE. Selon les premiers résultats de l'Euro-Baromètre d'automne 2003 (sondage du 1er octobre au 7 novembre 2003), 45% des interrogés se prononcent en faveur de l'élargissement, alors que 45 % (plus 5 %) se montrent opposés à l'élargissement tel que projeté actuellement. Il faut signaler que, avec -8%, le taux des adhérents a subi la baisse la plus forte parmi tous les Etats membres.

Media

- Les médias ont accordé une place très large aux rapports de la Commission sur l'état de la préparation des pays candidats. Neuf domaines de préoccupation recensés par la Commission en ce qui concerne la Pologne, des avertissements aux pays candidats pour réparer les manquements sérieux surtout en ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire et la lutte contre la corruption, une invitation à la Bulgarie et à la Roumanie d'intensifier leurs préparatifs sur le terrain, l'encouragement de la Turquie à mettre en œuvre ses réformes – tels sont les principaux sujets relevés par la presse luxembourgeoise. Les retards sont cependant jugés surmontables.
- Le commentateur de la radio RTL a fait part de son étonnement sur l'état de préparation des pays candidats, alors que la Commission européenne découvre que spécialement la Pologne, mais également d'autres pays de l'Est, n'ont pas complètement fait leurs devoirs de classes, qu'il est question d'avertissements et, peut-être, d'exclusion de la Pologne d'une série de matières comme par exemple les aides agricoles. D'où le risque que le citoyen européen ne perde sa confiance et sa conviction que la situation va s'améliorer dès que les candidats sont devenus membres de l'UE. Quel virage prend-on au niveau européen pour vivre avec les promesses faites à la Turquie que d'aucuns souhaitent retirer? Des maux de tête au sein de la Commission européenne ne semblent pas exclus quand on pense à l'adhésion de l'un ou de l'autre des pays candidats.
- La presse a également relaté la situation des jeunes gens dans les pays candidats. Leur mode de vie serait, dans beaucoup de points, semblable à celui de leurs collègues dans les Etats membres de l'UE. Des différences, parfois importantes, peuvent cependant être constatées en ce qui concerne les valeurs morales, surtout en relation avec les problèmes actuels de la société. Les jeunes gens des pays adhérents ont de grands espoirs envers l'UE.

- Les relations bilatérales du Grand-Duché avec les pays candidats, et surtout la République tchèque et la Hongrie, ont été largement couvertes par la presse luxembourgeoise au cours de la période sous revue.
- Jean-Claude Juncker, en compagnie du ministre de la Justice Luc Frieden, s'est rendu en République tchèque, les 20 et 21 novembre 2003, au cours d'une tournée des Balkans. Au centre des discussions, au-delà de l'adhésion, la future constitution de l'UE, le fonctionnement et la composition des institutions, dans des perspectives à long terme, les deux pays sont convenus d'étendre leur coopération en matière de satellites, entre les universités de Prague et de Luxembourg et d'ouvrir une ligne aérienne directe Luxembourg-Prague. Le Luxembourg occupe le huitième rang des pays européens investissant en République tchèque; il est le pays avec lequel la croissance du commerce extérieur a été la plus importante (+200 % du volume commercial depuis 1993).
- Mi-novembre 2003, Pavel Svoboda, président de la Commission pour l'intégration européenne du parlement tchèque, a eu un entretien à la Chambre des députés luxembourgeoise. Le visiteur a affirmé que la future Constitution européenne ne pourra compter sur l'accord de la République tchèque que si le principe «un commissaire par pays» y est explicitement garanti au-delà de 2009. Dans le cas contraire, son pays se diluerait au milieu de l'Union élargie comme «un morceau de sucre qui se dilue dans une tasse de thé». L'approche luxembourgeoise était de se reporter sur le texte de la Convention, avec une Commission réduite.
- Thèmes similaires à l'ordre du jour de la visite du Président de la Hongrie Peter Medgyessy à Luxembourg, début décembre. Au cours de la visite, la Hongrie a inauguré sa nouvelle ambassade à Luxembourg, qui sera dirigée par l'ambassadeur Ferenc Szöcs. Dans un entretien exclusif accordé au «Luxemburger Wort», Peter Medgyessy a exprimé le souhait de la Hongrie de devenir un partenaire constructif et fiable dans l'UE, un centre logistique en Europe centrale.
- Alors qu'actuellement uniquement un nombre très limité de Turcs vit sur le territoire luxembourgeois, le gouvernement a signé, le 20 novembre 2003, une convention avec la Turquie afin d'assurer des prestations égales de sécurité sociale aux Luxembourgeois et aux Turcs sur le territoire des deux Etats. La convention vise les risques maladie, vieillesse et accident et assure également des droits aux travailleurs, aux membres de leur famille et aux personnes en séjour sur le territoire de l'autre Etat. La Turquie fait ainsi partie de la vingtaine d'Etats qui jouissent d'une telle convention avec le Luxembourg en matière de sécurité sociale.

Actions d'information

- La campagne d'information sur le thème de l'élargissement, qui a commencé le 11 octobre 2003, s'est poursuivie terminée en novembre. Une nouvelle campagne est prévue pour les mois d'avril et de mai 2004.

Produits d'information

- La Représentation a produit un argumentaire de 160 pages destiné à être distribué aux décideurs et multiplicateurs. Il sera imprimé prochainement et distribué. Cet argumentaire servira de base de référence dans le cadre des discussions qui se dérouleront à la Chambre des députés, au Conseil d'État et dans les organes consultatifs sur le projet de loi approuvant le traité d'Athènes, déposé à la Chambre des députés le 31 juillet 2003. Il sera également diffusé dans les ministères, aux entreprises et aux médias. Une copie sera transmise aux collègues des autres Représentations comme exemple de «best practice».

Autres activités d'information dans le pays

- La Représentation a réalisé une brochure, en français et en allemand, expliquant aux citoyens les innovations essentielles du projet de Constitution. La brochure a été diffusée fin novembre à tous les ménages du Luxembourg.

Poland

The communication environment

- Several subjects were handled in the press during the month of November. First of all, the Comprehensive Monitoring Report was widely commented on. Already days before its publication, the subject made the headlines in the media.
- The second European subject treated extensively throughout the month was the position of the Polish to be taken in the December IGC summit in Brussels, especially on the system of votes proposed in the Nice Treaty and in the Constitution.
- A third European topic making headlines was the decision to change the conditions of integration of Polish agriculture with the Union.
- The comments of Commissioner Fischer that given the acceding countries submit convincing arguments, the list of products on excessive storing of which the tax will be imposed can be amended were very positively received.
- Polish observers welcomed the univocal recommendation of the ratification of the Accession Treaty by the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French National Assembly. The press has positively received the news that the budget discussions are postponed until after the EU summit in December.
- Finally the subject of EP elections is being taken up more and more. The Schuman Foundation, interviewed on this issue, wants to encourage people to take part in these elections widely and actively. During meetings and debates the members of the foundation will inform about the European Parliament and how it differs from the Polish Sejm and Senat. NGOs are in favor of incorporating electoral law the possibility for civil society committees into the European Parliament to take part in the elections, which should last for two days. NGOs would furthermore like citizens to have the possibility of voting by post.

- The joint parliamentary European and Administration & Internal Affairs Committees decided on the 27 November that electoral committees – associations and citizens organisations – would be allowed to submit lists of candidates to the European Parliament. The deputies adopted a draft of the electoral act, comprising 180 articles. An electoral committee will be allowed to spend up to 8.7 mln zloty for its campaign (0.30 zloty per voter).

Public opinion

- According to the OBOP opinion poll carried out on 4-6 October, 47% of Poles think that the EU integration will be beneficial for Poland. As to the development of the situation in Poland, 43% believe that the situation in the country will deteriorate after the accession. 63% of respondents say that the improvement can only be expected after 10 years of membership.

Media

- On 5 November a press conference was held on the release of the “Comprehensive Monitoring Report”. Head of the Delegation, Mr Bruno Dethomas presented the main points, and commented on implications for Poland’s accession to the EU.
- Commissioner Solbes came to Warsaw for a one-day visit on 20-21 November on the occasion of which a press release and a press conference were prepared. The main objective was the participation in the conference “From accession to adopting the Euro”, organised by the Commission, with the participation of more than 200 representatives of acceding countries. Apart from that, the Commissioner met with Finance Minister Raczko, President of the National Bank Balcerowicz and members of the Programming Board of the Polish Forum of Lisbon strategy. “Gazeta Wyborcza” published an interview with Commissioner Solbes. “Rzeczpospolita” wrote that his question to the NBP President Balcerowicz will be: when will Poland link zloty with the common currency within EMU2, and the answer he receives - as soon as the government presents a credible plan of the public finance recovery.
- Giorgio Bonacci, Director General of the EuropeAid Co-operation Office paid a visit to Warsaw to raise awareness amongst representatives of commerce and NGOs on development co-operation, and to discuss with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance on future co-operations. The press briefing was held at the premises of the European Delegation.
- On November 22, Polish Prime Minister Miller and Ambassador of the EC Delegation, Bruno Dethomas, opened the border crossing point of Kuznica Bialostocka at the border of Poland and Bielorrussia.

Press releases

- Press releases were sent and put on the website of the Delegation on all of the above topics. In addition, press releases were prepared on this year’s budget for EU programmes for NGOs, and on the ISPA projects of improvement of water quality in Suwalki and in Katowice.

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- The Head of ISPA Section and the Financial Officer met with Prince Philip at the occasion of his visit in Poland, the Financial Officer accompanied the Prince on his visit to Poznan.

Conferences

- Three conferences were organised from the funds of the Information and Communication Programme:
- The EC Delegation, in co-operation with the EuroInfo Centre, the Ministry of Economy and several banks involved in cofinancing of activities of small and medium sized companies, organised the 3rd co-ordination forum for SMEs. There, finance facilities from the Structural Funds were presented, and information on preparation from the side of Polish and international banks was given. More than 200 representatives from SMEs, authorities and banks participated, and the feedback from the press was considerable (more than 30 journalists attended the press conference, all main newspapers and several TV stations covered the event and its message). The press conference was held in the presence of John O'Rourke, First Counselor of the EC Delegation and Jerzy Kwiecinski, task manager responsible for enterprise-co-operation.
- The Schuman Foundation organised one conference for youth on opportunities after accession for 350 participants. The target groups were teachers and young people coming from all over Poland from small communities with high unemployment. The students have finished their education and are now looking for a job. Speakers amongst others were President of the European Committee of the Polish Parliament Josef Oleksy, Vice Minister of the Economy Marek Szczepanski, Head of the Public Relations Department of DaimlerChrysler, Ewa Labno-Falecka, and Director of the College of Europe in Natolin, Piotr Nowina-Konopka.
- The third conference financed in November was on European enlargement and the use of Structural Funds. It was also organised by the Schuman Foundation, in co-operation with the National School for Rural Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture, aimed at agriculture students and young farmers. More than 250 people attended, and participated in the panel discussion chaired by the Vice Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Jerzy Plewa, Piotr Stypinski from the National School for Rural Economy and Henning Tewes, President of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Amongst others workshops were held on "How to change my father's farm", which is also the topic for a competition launched during the conference. The finals will take place in June 2004.

Information events

- The EU Film Festival, co-financed in the framework of the EU Communication Programme, was opened with participation of Ambassador Bruno Dethomas on 12 November in Warsaw. One of the most recognised Polish Film Directors, Andrzej Wajda, underlined the achievements of European film-making and the importance of films for EU integration in his opening speech. During the two weeks until the 27 November, 23 films from Member States as well as from several Accession countries were presented.

Publications

- 5.000 copies of the CD-Rom “Europe in a nutshell” and 5.000 VHS copies on the history of the EU, institutions, functioning of the EU and support for Poland, designed for schools, have been produced, delivered, and distributed to schools all over Poland.
- Final layout, editing and proofreading of the three last EC Delegation brochures to be printed for this year were undertaken. “Guide to EU Programmes for Poland”, as well as the “Sources of Information” and the “ISPA Programmes”, “Community Programmes” and “Phare Programmes” are up-to-date now, and are to be delivered by the end of November.
- The book “An outline of Europe” was printed and, thanks to the co-operation of the Ministry of Education, distributed to schools in Poland.
- Information on successful examples of the use of Structural Funds in EU Member States was collected and included in the book “The Euros for Poland, or how to obtain the money from Structural Funds”. It will be printed and distributed to Polish libraries and local authorities in 2004.
- Within the framework of the Communication Programme the following publications were prepared and published by the EuroInfo Centre Warsaw: 1. Guide for exporters – EU, Austria, Germany, France, and Italy – 6.000 copies, 2. Guide for exporters – Austrian law – 5.000 copies, 3. Poland. Business guide for SMEs – 5.000 copies, 4. Programmes of support for SMEs – 10.000 copies, 5. CE Certificate – 14.000 copies.
- 48.000 copies of the “Unijne vademecum radnego”, an EU guide for local authorities, were edited, printed and distributed by the “Gazeta Samorządu i Administracji”, a monthly magazine for local authorities. The guide was given to representatives and local self-governments in Poland. Furthermore a CD-Rom with information on EU Programmes in Poland (5500 copies), was distributed to readers of the magazine.

Internet

- The brochure “Sources of Information” is also available in an electronic version on the Delegation website.
- A competition was announced on the website, and throughout the month four editions were published. Participants answered Europe-related questions, and winners received promotional materials.
- A new search engine for the Phare database was created with enhanced search options.
- The website received a brush up, especially the design of the database and the Phare regions section was redone, and the calendar display upgraded. Site design improvements were made.

- As usual, the weekly calendar on EU events in Poland has been put onto the website every Monday.

Info Point

- Info Point received 990 visitors, answered 1130 phone calls and sent 345 e-mails, and furthermore sent 120 letters and packages with information material. The most frequently asked questions concerned: the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, sanitary standards and technical requirements in the EU, job opportunities in the European institutions and in the EU Member States, scholarships for students in the EU, and structural funds for SMEs after Poland's entry.
- The staff of the Info Point gave 15 presentations for students, journalists and NGOs. The issues presented concerned EU history, the enlargement process, EU information policy, functioning of the EU institutions and structural funds.
- The staff of the Info Point took part in 2 conferences: "From accession to adopting the Euro", and "Community support funds and programmes for Polish enterprises".

Constitution

- The public is getting more and more involved in the debate on the European Constitution. Newspapers printed the open letter "to the European public" signed by Polish intellectuals to the citizens of the EU concerning the "development of the EU" giving the address of the webpage (www.jakaeuropa.pl) and inviting readers to sign it. On 20 November President Kwasniewski met with the signatories. While Polish politicians considered the letter as an attempt to undermine the Polish official stance on the draft Constitution, the signatories argued that the letter was an attempt to launch a debate on the future of Europe in Poland. Kwasniewski did not agree, stating the discussion in Poland is already more vivid than in many other European countries.

Portugal

Media

- In terms of media coverage the reports on the preparation of the candidate countries to the accession of the EU were the main subject concerning enlargement.

Projects/co-operation with media

- The production and broadcasting of programmes on enlargement by local radios continued in November. About 20 programmes have been broadcast by four radios.

- The Representation has supported the visit of a group of Portuguese journalists to Turkey (17-23th November). This support was requested by the Embassy of Turkey in Lisbon, which co-ordinated the logistical and agenda aspects of the visit. The group of journalists included two journalists and two cameramen from SIC and TVI, the private generalist TV stations, and a journalist from 'Público', a daily newspaper.

Information events

- 20th November - Conference with the Turkish Minister of State on the future role and contribution of Turkey to the European Union at the Representation.

Products

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

Information Centre

- The seminar “Enlargement of the European Union and its Impact on the Enterprises” took place on the 3rd of November at the Auditorium of the Public Library and Archive of Ponta Delgada (Azores). The event, attended by about 100 participants, was organised by the Euro Info Centre of Azores and co-financed by the Representation.

Information activities related to the Convention

- A series of open meetings promoted by the Portuguese member of EP, José Ribeiro e Castro, at the Representation, involving relevant Portuguese personalities (mainly politicians and academia) to discuss the future constitution of Europe took place in November.

Romania

The communication environment

- The month was dominated by EU-related events, starting with the publication of the Regular Report (November 5th) and ending with the nomination of the new Minister of European Integration (November 27th). In between, there were several meetings between Romania and the EU - the Association Committee, the Joint Monitoring Committee for Phare, Ispa and Sapard, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Several official visits to Romania – Director General of DG ECFIN, Director General of DG Enlargement, Director General of Interpretation Services with the Commission, Director of Interpretation Services with the Parliament, MEPs of the Health Committee with the European Parliament – have taken place. Last but not least plenty of public statements pertaining more or less to the European integration process were published. Most debated was the ambiguous formulation on the functioning market economy status in the conclusions of the

Regular Report. The need to find consensus on the right way to go about recommendations in the Report resulted in the launching of a new National Forum for European Integration, to debate the priority measures for the next period. Some other events not strictly linked to the integration process, such as the new mission of IMF's Chief-Negotiator, for the negotiation of a new agreement, or the launch of the debate on the electoral calendar for next year also took place.

Public opinion

- The following seminars and conferences were organised during the period:
- November 12th – regional forum “Leaders” organised by the Presidential Administration and the UNDP. The forum is aimed at promoting co-operation between Central and Eastern European countries through the creation of a regional network of active young leaders.
- November 17th – national forum “Public services of general interest in view of Romania’s accession to the EU”, organised at the Parliament Palace with the participation of the relevant institutions, political parties and of representatives from the Council of Europe.
- November 18-19 – conference on “Lisbon strategy”, organised by the European Institute of Romania, with the participation of the Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister and Deputy Head of EC Delegation.
- November 19th – conference “Enigmas of the European Constitution”, first of the series entitled « European lectures », to be organised by the Romanian Academic Society. The conference benefited from the participation of Heather Grabbe, Researcher, and Deputy-Director of the Centre for European Reform (London).
- November 20th – conference on “Enlargement after enlargement: the EU and its neighbourhood from 2004”, organised by the European Institute of Romania, with the participation of Heather Grabbe, Researcher, Deputy-Director of the Centre for European Reform (London).
- November 24th – conference “Globalisation and the future of the EU”, organised by European Institute of Romania, with the participation of Tassos Giannitsis, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of Greece.
- November 25th – national forum in support of Romania’s accession process, organised at the Parliament Palace, with the participation of representatives from all state institutions, political parties, trade unions, civil society and church, as well as political analysts, media, businessmen.
- November 24-26th – international seminar „Change Management in Public Administration in the context of EU integration”, organised by the National Institute of Administration (Romania), together with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) from Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Media

- Media monitoring period: 3-30.11 2003
 - Total articles and broadcasts: 7332 (national newspapers, in local press and broadcasts on A/V media)
 - 2998 articles were published in the national newspapers: 2224 news, 379 stories, 130 commentaries, 68 analyses, 152 editorials, 10 feature stories / investigations and 35 interviews
 - 3030 articles were published in the local press: 2350 news, 216 stories, 83 commentaries, 20 analyses, 283 editorials, 20 feature stories / investigations and 58 interviews
 - 1304 broadcasts on A/V media: 1304 news
 - The main topics covered by articles and A/V broadcasts:
- | • Topic | No.items |
|---|----------|
| • EU Institutions / reactions | 959 |
| • EU assistance programmes | 1068 |
| • Romania's accession process | 5248 |
| • EU enlargement process | 679 |
| • New Member States | 298 |
| • Corruption (Romania's actions in tackling this issue) | 456 |
| • The Delegation of the European Commission | 304 |

Press releases

- 4 Nov - Reaction to declaration on mis-use of funds for RRoma
- 5 Nov - Publication of the Regular Report
- 13 Nov - Comenius week
- 17 Nov - Meeting of the HoD with the students of Babes Bolyai University
- 17-18 Nov - HoD visit to Sibiu and Alba counties
- 19 Nov - Reaction to declaration on potential loss of environment funds
- 19 Nov - Launch of twinning project for the Sanitary-Veterinary Agency
- 20 Nov - Visit of Directors for Interpretation Services with the Commission and Parliament

- 21 Nov - Association Committee
- 24 Nov - Joint Monitoring Committee
- 25 Nov - Visit of Director General of DG Enlargement
- 26 Nov - Launch of project on intellectual property
- 26 Nov - Launch of project on European Social Fund
- 26 Nov - Launch of project adoption of acquis in the field of audio-visual
- 28 Nov - Visit of MEPs delegation on haemophilia

Press conferences

- 5 Nov - Publication of Regular Reports
- 6 Nov - Visit of Director General Klaus Regling / DG ECFIN
- 14 Nov - Comenius Week
- 18 Nov - HoD visit to Alba County
- 19 Nov - HoD visit to Sibiu County
- 20 Nov - Visit of Directors of Interpretation Services
- 25 Nov - Visit of Director General Fabrizio Barbaso / DG Enlargement
- 26 Nov - Launch of twinning project on intellectual property
- 26 Nov - Launch of project on equal opportunities
- 26 Nov - Launch of project for the audio-visual sector
- 28 Nov - Visit MEPs from the Health Committee of the European Parliament

Press interviews

- 1 Nov - HoD message for anniversary of public radio station – Radio Romania
- 5 Nov - HoD in live talk show on Regular Report - TVR 1
- 7 Nov - HoD interview on Regular Report - Europa FM
- 7 Nov - HoD interview on accession issues - Radio Timisoara
- 19 Nov - Deputy HoD interview on accession issues - ORF
- 20 Nov - HoD interview on accession issues - RFI

- 22 Nov - HoD in live talk show on own activity and life in Romania – TV station Antena 1
- 24 Nov - HoD interview on accession issues – weekly Dilema
- 26 Nov - HoD interview on general issues, children – BBC 4
- 27 Nov - Deputy HoD statement on new Minister for European Integration - Reuters
- 27 Nov - HoD statement on National Day - Radio Romania
- 27 Nov - HoD statement on anniversary of Romanian Business Journal – weekly RBJ
- 28 Nov - HoD interview on child protection policy – weekly Sunday Telegraph

Information events

- Seven events were organised in November 2003. The live broadcast of the RR publication (November 5th 2003), watched by media professionals, was followed by a press statement by the Head of Delegation. Press conferences were organised at the Centre on the release of the Regular Report 2003 and the visit of Director-General Regling (November 6th 2003) as well as the COMENIUS week of promotional events (November 14th 2003). Furthermore, press conferences took place on interpretation-translation services (November 20th 2003), the visit of new Director-General of DG Enlargement (November 25th 2003), intellectual propriety (November 26th 2003), public health issues, and the visit of MEPs (November 28th 2003).
- Between November 10-14, an exhibition on COMENIUS projects was hosted at the Information Centre, organised together with the National Agency SOCRATES. For the launch of the European card EURO 26, an information stand was organised together with third parties' partners in this initiative, managed by the EURO 26 Organisation.

Internet/site of the Delegation

- The website www.infoeuropa.ro was extremely active, due to the high interest raised by the publication of the Regular Report 2003. The number of visits registered reached 32,754, a record level, with 20,3% higher than the previous month and with 77,0% than October 2002. The most active day was November 5th with 1,899 visits / day. The most downloaded file was RR 2003 (full text), with 24,345 copies.

Products

- The new issue of the Infoeuropa Newsletter (No. 16) was mailed to 1240 addresses; 2600 copies of the newsletter were printed and distributed.

Information Centre

- 970 clients were served in November, of which 368 were men (37,5%) and 602 women (62,5%). Top three interest issues that were researched for were EU (466 persons), EU policies (218 persons) and accession process (92 persons).
- 626 of the visitors (64,5 %) were academics (students, professors), 10 were media professionals (1,03 %) and 63 persons belonged to NGOs (6,49 %). 82 clients (8,45 %) represented the public administration.
- In-house, the production of publications reached more than 77, 000 pages, offered directly to the public or used in the local events.
- The call centre answered 368 phone queries, 149 e-mail queries and 10 letters requesting information. The Information Centre staff began to offer support to EC Delegation for carrying out correspondence with the general public interested in EU issues.
- In order to support events in the country and answer to information requests, 609 mails and parcels were posted, representing 147 kgs and over 500 copies of publications.
- The Information Centre publicised the programming of documentaries broadcast by Europe by Satellite, such as “EU Enlargement: ISPA / Environment - 2003”, “OLAF: International Co-operation - 2003”, “China: Beijing - 2003” and “EU Enlargement: ISPA / Transport - 2003” to the media professionals and institutions.

Other information activities

- Youth campaign - On the occasion of the Comenius Week, a workshop with high-school pupils was organised at Ion Creanga High School in Bucharest on November 13th. Pupils from three different high schools participated in the activity. The workshop started with a warm-up session, animated by the 15-25 team, and continued with the creation of campaign posters for the referendum on the topic “Vote IN FAVOUR / AGAINST Romania’s accession to the EU”. The ceremony of opening an Info Point at the Ion Creanga High School took place after the conclusion of the workshop that benefited from the participation of the Deputy HoD.
- During the regional visit to Alba and Sibiu counties, on November 17th and 18th, the Head of Delegation continued his meetings with young people. He met, in workshop format, pupils from different high schools from Alba Iulia and Sibiu. The workshops started with a warm-up session, animated by the 15-25 team.
- Other actions carried out within the framework of the youth campaign involved the participation in a seminar on “Rights and duties for youth – the right to proper education”, organised by the Bucharest Youth Foundation. Besides, the publication of the 5th and 6th issues of the 15-25.ro newsletter (3 and 17 Nov) and the participation in the Euro 26 Fair (partner in the 15-25.ro campaign) has taken place.

Networking

- Dedicated meetings with multipliers in Cluj and Sibiu, during the local visit of the HoD
- Dedicated meetings with potential multipliers (youth organisations) in Sibiu, during the local visit of the HoD
- Mailing to 1240 addresses of the Newsletter No. 16, including the special issue on RR (history, content, significance); the newsletter acquired a new column entitled “Voices from the network”, to be filled with news from the multipliers
- Continuation of the research on the use of specific network instruments (Extranet, green number)
- Organisation of live chat with the HoD, after the RR publication
- Development of the youth network (15-25): meetings took place in Sibiu and Bucharest (Bucharest Youth Foundation)
- Chat - The number of users registered with the Extranet increased with 20 more people in November (adding to a total number of 441 registered users, end November). The most active day on the Extranet was November 6th (during the chat with the HoD on the RR). Active users in the chat accounted to 35. November registered the highest number of visits per month, since the launch of the Extranet (518 visits).
- Regional visits - On November 17th and 18th, the HoD carried out regional visits to Alba and Sibiu counties, being accompanied by several central-media journalists. In Alba, the HoD met the local authorities and high-school students. The HoD also visited projects aimed at the development of civil society, as well as of regional initiatives and of human resources. In Sibiu, the HoD met the local authorities and visited several projects financed by the EU in the field of civil society and regional development. He also met high-school students and participated in a meeting of regional information multipliers.

Sweden

The communication environment

- The focus in November gradually shifted from the shocks of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh’s murder and the “No” in the Euro Referendum to other areas, especially to the IGC and the Convention.
- As regards the enlargement, there was much more debate compared to the previous months, too. The debate centered mainly on the potential risks of the in-flow of immigrant work force from the acceding countries.

Media

- In the Swedish media, the key attention on enlargement in November evolved around the concerns of the risks from the potential inflow of immigrant work force from the acceding countries, and whether Sweden should deploy a transition period for these workers. The Confederation of Trade Unions called for such measures. The LO's treaty secretary Erland Olausson asserted, however, that "transition rules solve no problems, just postpone them". Prime Minister Persson expressed on 23 November a view according to which labor immigration rules could be sharpened. Centre Party leader Maud Olofsson asserted that PM Persson is "fishing in xenophobic waters" if the workers were to be split into "an A and B class". Moderate Party leader Frederik Reinfeldt expressed support for restrictions on welfare benefits for immigrants. An editorial in the Aftonbladet argued that Persson is "on the wrong track" on this issue. Sweden should not put any special rules for the new EU citizens.
- On 26 November it was reported that a majority of the Swedish MP's share the view that Sweden should allow free immigration of labor force from the new MS's and that no transition rules are needed. A united Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swedish Parliament decided that the Parliament would have the final say in case the Government wants to impose transitional rules for foreign workers. Finally, it was reported that PM Persson's "flirt with the labor unions" was viewed with surprise in the European Commission.
- Turkey's chances for EU membership drew also increased interest in the media. Quoting Commissioner Verheugen on 24 November, the Swedish Radio concluded, however, that there is no fast track for Turkey - it needs to meet the Copenhagen criteria.

Information events

- On 21 November, The Representation together with the Swedish National Board of Trade (Kommerskollegium) hosted a seminar on Enlargement and the Single Market. Among others, Commissioner Verheugen and the Swedish Minister for Industry, Mr. Leif Pagrotsky appeared as keynote speakers. There were altogether about 150 participants representing the media, business world, the academia, and other organisations in the seminar.
- The final seminar "The Black Seas – a Boundary or a Bridge" in the framework project with the Swedish foreign policy institute (SIIA) series was held on 28 November.

Products

- The first publication from the framework project with the Swedish Confederation of Municipalities was released in November. It is entitled "Welfare and growth in the Communities and Provinces in the Future EU". It includes several articles from different angles on the issue. The publication is mainly targeted for the locally elected representatives of the Swedish municipalities

Information activities related to the Convention

- The Representation co-hosted together with the EP information office, the Governmental 2004 Committee, the Swedish Parliament, and the MFA, a conference entitled “Storforum” on “Sweden in the future EU”, at the Lund University on 7 November. Commissioner Wallström and Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds were among the keynote speakers and appeared on the panel. About 300 participants, mostly students, attended the event.

Turkey

The communication environment

- The launching of the Regular Report and the Strategy Paper occupied the agenda at the beginning of November. Discussions started the week before the launch of the Report and continued afterwards. The attention of the Turkish public was mainly focused on the statements of the Strategy Paper in relation to the Cyprus problem.
- The Head of Representation briefed media members on the Regular Report during the press conference held at the EC Representation in Ankara on 6 November. The same day, he attended a panel organised by Ankara Bar Association. In particular, the briefing on RR organised in İstanbul, which brought together the HoR and prominent columnists from major dailies, contributed to the shaping of a more informed public discussion about Turkey’s progress towards the EU membership. The columnists wrote a number of articles in the major dailies.
- Later in the month, the terrorist attacks in İstanbul on 15 October and on 20 October changed the agenda of Turkish politics. The public debate included discussions such as questioning security measures, definition of the terror as Islamist/Islamic, how Turkey is being perceived in the Islamic world and in the EU, etc.

Public opinion

- Economic Development Foundation continued to evaluate the success of the “Turkey-EU Seminars in the Pre-Accession Process” through a survey consisting of questions on EU membership, contribution of the seminars in the knowledge of participants and seminar organisation in general, which was conducted at the seminars. Questionnaires were distributed to the participants right before the start of the seminar and were required to fill in and return them at the end of the seminar. More than half of the seminar participants returned the questionnaires.
- According to the evaluation of questionnaires collected in Kütahya, 97.8% of survey participants think that Turkey must become a member of the EU. In general, the EU membership has more than one meaning for survey participants and covers political, economic and social life.
- The survey results on the meaning of EU membership indicate that the rising of democracy and human rights standards is on top of the expectations in Kütahya. Improvements of economic and social conditions rank second and third

respectively. Expectation of a better future is the fourth highest option indicated by the survey participants in Kütahya.

- According to the evaluation of the questionnaires, survey participants' think that the information received at the seminar has significantly increased their knowledge on EU and Turkey-EU relations. Survey participants also want to receive a regular flow of information on these issues. The related percentage is 96.6% in Kütahya.

Information Centre

- The team participated at a seminar organised by EU-Turkey Co-operation Association (TURKAB) on November 7, 2003. The main purpose of the meeting was launching the European Union Encyclopaedia, the fourth publication of TURKAB's EU Series. During the meeting, the 2003 Regular Report on Turkey was also discussed. The meeting began with an opening speech by TURKAB's President Erdal Kabatepe. HoR briefed the participants on the RR and answered related questions.
- The project team participated in a seminar co-organised by Dünya Newspaper and The Economist. The purpose of the meeting was launching the survey conducted by the Economist on "EU Enlargement" on 20 October. The speakers on the panel, which was chaired by Prof. Dr. İlder Turan, included the Economist's representative Rosella Black, and the former President of Economic Development Foundation, Ms. Meral Gezgin Eriş.

Team Europe

- Ms Arzu Yürükçü from the Ministry of Agriculture, who is also member of Team Europe attended to participate in a seminar, organised by local NGO ANSIAD (Antalya Businessmen and Industrialists Association) on 20 November 2003. The topic of the seminar was 'Fruit and vegetable production associations in the framework of the EU's common market'. This seminar is one of the examples showing that there is need for specialised tailor-made information on EU related matters and that Team Europe is mobilised to meet this demand.

The implementation of the media plan

- In November, a number of activities foreseen in the media communication plan were materialised. HoR met with columnist Mr. Sami Kohen (Milliyet) on 3 November for an informal meeting. The same day, he gave an interview to Hürriyet Newspaper economy reporter Cüneyt Uzunoğulları. Both meetings were held in İstanbul.
- Following the initiative of the project team, two EU funded projects were publicised on a TV programme broadcast by CNBC-e: Civil Society Development Program on 21 November and Marmara Earthquake Rehabilitation Program on 24 November.

Europe HORIZONS Information Programme

- Economic Development Foundation (IKV) “Turkey-EU Seminars in Pre-Accession Process” project: The project continued with two seminars in November, cities being Eskişehir and Kütahya. Totally 13 seminars have been put on the ground since the beginning of the project. Concerning the preparatory meetings for the future seminars, Denizli and İzmir have been visited in November.
- Seminars implemented in November: Eskişehir, 12 November 2003, Eskişehir Chamber of Commerce Conference Hall, Kütahya, 13 November 2003, Dumlupınar University Faculty of Arts and Sciences Theatre Hall.
- In Kutahya, IKV’s Secretary General and Head of National Programme in EUSG attended to a local TV programme regarding the project and also latest developments in EU-Turkey relations for one and a half hour. The announcement of these seminars is carried out by governerships, municipalities, chambers of commerce and industry, universities, NGOs and directly by IKV. Posters, circulars, bulletins, letters of invitation, press releases and announcements via local radios and TV stations were the main means of communication. As a result, these 2 seminars have been quite successful in terms of the number of participants, which consisted of various sections of the society. The seminars were also supported with a visual presentation in both cities and a question-answer part followed the presentation of the speakers.
- A survey to evaluate the outcome of the seminars as well as to get information concerning the expectations and suggestions of the participants is also prepared and distributed to the participants. Due to the high number of questions asked by participants at the end of the seminars, the seminars last one hour longer than foreseen.
- Association of Aegean Businessmen and Industrialists (ESIAD) “Europe Horizons over Anatolian Skies” project: Project activities continue. In November a total of 5 seminars have been organised in different cities of Turkey by the relays, which are partners of the project.
- World Academy of Local Authorities and Democracy (WALD) "Local Authorities in the EU Process" project: WALD's project was finalised on 16 November 2003. The following activities were implemented in November: The fourth newsletter (AB Yerel Net) and the fourth brochure (AB Yerel Güncel) have been printed and disseminated; the third booklet by Emre Gönen has been edited; the web site was updated with the latest information, including the Conference "Local Authorities in the EU Process" by the project team with the support of technical assistants; television programs, broadcast throughout the project are transferred to CD format.
- Economic and Social History Foundation "PEACH project": European Articles in Toplumsal Tarih Journal: The publication of Europe related articles continued in the Toplumsal Tarih Journal. The project team received positive feedback on the evaluation questionnaire prepared during the pilot testing. The form will be put on the web and distributed through the mailing lists managed by the History Foundation in the second week of December.

- Translation of European history Education Books: All six books are published and will be distributed during teachers' trainings. Before the training some copies will be sent to the co-ordination embassies and related institutions.
- TUSİAD “e-mag” project: In November, three programs aired; 6th program on 1 November, 7th program on 8 November and 8th program on 29 November. 8th program delayed for two weeks, the program could not be aired on the scheduled time. Due to terrorist attacks in Istanbul, NTV Radio changed its regular programs and just aired the news. The program was re-recorded and could be aired on 29th of November with normalisation of radio schedule. Internet site on the radio programme and EU at www.avrupapostasi.org address is functioning. The site announced in radio show. Project team held its monthly meeting on the 17th of November to evaluate the programs and Internet site.

Press releases

- 4.11.2003 - Invitation / press conference / Regular Report 2003
- 12.11.2003 - The EU supports small-scale initiatives in the field of Democratisation and Human Rights in Turkey
- 13.11.2003 - First EU funded twinning project on veterinary issues to start in Turkey
- 24.11.2003 - Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue: The EU supports small-scale joint initiatives between Turkey and Greece

Representation's Website

- Full text of the 2003 Regular Report for Turkey (English and the Turkish translation), 2003 Strategy Paper and 2003 Country monitoring reports and comprehensive monitoring report are put on the ECR's web site
- 05.11.2003 - Update of the timetable : Call for Proposals: The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights - Turkey 2001 Micro-Projects Programme
- 07.11.2003 - Press Release : The EU supports small-scale initiatives in the field of Democratisation and Human Rights in Turkey : The EC announces the results of Turkey 2001 EIDHR Micro-project Programme
- 13.11.2003 - Press Release: Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue - The EU supports small-scale joint initiatives between Turkey and Greece :The Representation of the European Commission selected 4 joint projects to be funded under the 1st Phase of the Turkish-Greek Civic Dialogue micro-project Programme

Publications

- Weekly electronic newsletter Current EU News (Güncel Haber) is being published every week regularly in English and Turkish. It is available at the ECR's website. (www.deltur.cec.eu.int). This month issues of 15-16-17-18 are published. It is

sent to over 8000 recipients. In November, the electronic Güncel Haber bulletin received 15 requests for subscription.

- Bi-monthly magazine: The new version of the Güncel Haber Magazine was printed in November. The magazine includes an interview with Mr. Abdullah Gül, an article by Ambassador of Italy on Presidency, and a number of articles on projects, new publications on EU, etc. The magazine received 21 requests for subscription.
- “Enlargement of the EU: An historic opportunity” - brochure printed as a 16-page insert to replace one issue of Güncel Haber Magazine. The content has been updated by including the Regular and Monitoring Reports 2003. It will be printed after the ECR’s approval.

Activities of EU Regional Information Network/EDCs and Universities

- EU Regional Information Network has involved in a number of local / regional activities including seminars, dissemination of information products (Electronic newsletter, fact sheets, booklets, brochures, etc.) sent by ECR to local media, universities and NGOs; answering of public queries. Seminars are mainly being organised in partnership with ESIAD, which is the project leader of the EU funded EU network support project “Europe Horizons over Anatolian skies”.

Information activities

- Samsun - Partnership made with the Gençev Youth Association as regards to Youth Information Bridge Project organized in Samsun, 8-9 November
- Denizli - A seminar held on EU education and training policy, 20 November. Prof. Dr. Sühayda Atalay and Doç. Dr.Füsun Dokuzoğuz attended as speakers.
- Kayseri - A seminar was held on EU-Turkey Relations in partnership with Kayseri Chamber of Industry.
- Gaziantep - Participation to ABİGEM Project Co-ordination Meeting, 11 November. Visit by Mr. Burak BOYSAL, Expert on cultural heritage programme, 6 November
- Antalya - A seminar organised on Community Programmes, speaker: Sevinç Atabay from EUSG, Head of Community Programmes. A joint meeting held with ANSİAD about EU agricultural policy on 20 November.

Activities of EDCs/Universities

- The Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Maritime, Trade, Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) - Eighty-two persons visited the TOBB Library in November and used the EU related documents.
- Anadolu University EDC - Forty-one persons visited the EDC in November 2003. Total no of visitors: 41 (Professors: 3; Graduate students: 14; Undergraduate students: 24). The number of publications catalogued: 24. Number of new CDs: 7

- Istanbul University EDC - Thirty persons visited the EDC in November. The EDC also continued its cataloguing activities for the publications of the European Commission.
- Bilgi University EDC - 18 persons visited the EDC. 456 persons visited the EDC website. The number of publications catalogued: 38. The number of visitors of the EDC website (Turkish): 142. The number of visitors of the EDC website (English): 314

Reports and news from EU related websites

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website - Jean Monnet Scholarship 2004-2005 Announcement
- Secretariat General for the European Union - DG Enlargement of the European Commission published the 2003 Regular Report for Turkey. DG Enlargement of the European Commission published the 2003 Strategy Paper for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. JRC Specialised Workshops and Training Courses
- Civil Society Development Programme Website - The ECR selected 4 joint projects to be funded under the 1st phase of the Turkish-Greek Civil Dialogue micro-project Programme. 2003 Regular Report for Turkey, part of NGOs
- IKV website - 2003 Regular Report and Strategy Paper for Turkey was released on the website.

United Kingdom

The communication environment

- EU-related topics, which attracted media attention during this period were predominantly trade issues, including the EU – US stand-off over steel tariffs and GMOs. There was relatively high coverage of EU enlargement this month.
- Cross-party support in Parliament for EU enlargement remains in tact. The UK implementing legislation for the Treaty of Athens has now been adopted as the “European Union (Accessions) Act 2003”. Royal Assent was received on 13 November and the ratification instrument will be deposited before the end of 2003. The new Act gives Ministers the power to make regulations to apply free movement of workers provisions to citizens of the 8 new Member States concerned from 1 May 2004. Draft regulations to this effect will be laid before Parliament early next year.

Public opinion

- The results of “Flash” EB 154 on public opinion within the UK on EU issues have been published. Sampling 500 people each in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the 9 regions of England, this telephone poll conducted between 10 and 30 November provides some of the most robust results available.

- By way of background, EB 154 shows the proportion of those interviewed who feel they know very little or nothing about the EU remains over 80% in all parts of the UK.
- The media is the main and preferred source for people's information about the EU and its policies. EU information networks are second only to MEPs in unpopularity as a source.
- Whilst people feel the media handles EU issues fairly, people trust broadcast sources. Public distrust of the press remains much higher than distrust of the Commission.
- Opposition to the single currency hovers around 60%, though both polls date from before the 25/11/03 Ecofin Council, which effectively suspended the excessive deficit procedure.
- The only area in which the UK public is enthusiastic for EU activity is fighting terrorism.
- Support for teaching children about the EU in schools remains overwhelming (84%).

Media

- A number of enlargement-related articles appeared in the press during November. Amongst these, Turkey featured most prominently. Following the suicide attacks in Istanbul (26 November), several broadsheets commented on the Islamic country's close ties with the west and its aspirations of EU membership.
- Poland's progress towards accession was commented on in several broadsheets, mainly with reference to the Commission's Regular Report.
- The EU aspirations of Bulgaria and Romania and the distance they still have to go to achieve this received a certain amount of coverage this month.
- There was a mix of articles on Latvia in a special supplement in the FT on 25 November.
- Other enlargement-related issues making the news in the UK in November included:
 - an assortment of articles on the Commission's Regular Reports, various articles on relations between old and new Member States in general, three articles on the enlargement process as a whole, a selection of articles on the new Member States' adoption of the €, the accession countries and EU subsidies and business/investment in an enlarged Europe
 - two further articles from the Economist special enlargement supplement (22 November) on relations between the Baltic States and Russia and the issue of Kaliningrad and a further one on the consolidation of national politics in the new Member States

- two articles in The Guardian reporting on allegations against the President of Lithuania and another in The Times about Lithuanian asylum-seekers
- three pieces in the FT on the Czech Republic: one on the privatisation of the Czech coal mining industry
- a report in The Times anticipating that organised crime will surge with enlargement
- a piece in the FT by the SoS for Trade & Industry on the importance of sex equality in an enlarged Europe
- an article in The Times (Business & Sport) on an exhibition of Hungarian gold and silver masterpieces at Somerset House, London
- a report in the FT on English as the dominant language after expansion
- a snippet in The Independent on the request by Cyprus and Malta for their islands to be included on the maps on euro notes and the announcement of Macedonia's imminent application to join the EU received a mention in the FT
- In addition to press reviews from Offices in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Commission Representation monitors 9 regional dailies in England. There was low regional press coverage of EU enlargement during November. However, there was local press coverage of the Get wise to new Europe information event in Lisburn, N. Ireland (18-21 November).
- Broadcast media: There was little radio or television coverage of EU enlargement issues during November that the Representation was aware of, apart from a piece on BBC Wales (5 November) about Welsh business needing to take advantage of an enlarged Europe.
- Internet: From Commission press materials on enlargement (7 items during November), a selection was made and given a specific UK flavour for "The week in Europe", (<http://www.cec.org.uk/press/we/latest.htm>) which is distributed to the UK media. Colleagues in Cardiff and Belfast provide a similar but more specific service on their Wales/Northern Ireland Office websites.

Information events

- 01-02/11/03 - FCO enlargement stand at the Adventure and Travel Show, Manchester
- 03/11/03 - Meeting between Minister for Europe and the Cypriot Foreign Minister
- 04/11/03 - "Where is Europe going?" – Jean Monnet Memorial Lecture, London
- 05/11/03 - EIC East Anglia enlargement event "Bigger Europe, Better Opportunities", business event in Inverness; Export forum on enlargement, Manchester Chambers of Commerce

- 05-06/11/03 - “Tomorrow’s Wales” enlargement event, Llanduddno
- 05-19/11/03 - “Slovakia goes ahead”: various events in Dublin organised by the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present Slovakia to Ireland
- 06/11/03 - EIC Small Business Gateway Glasgow information evening: Meeting between Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Bulgarian Foreign Minister, FCO
- 6-9/11/03 - "Continental Market" (EU enlargement stand), Sheffield
- 10/11/03 - Slovak Financial update seminar, Bank of England, London
- 11/11/03 - Polish Independence Day concert, Edinburgh; Glasgow EIC business event
- 12/11/03 - Lunch for London-based journalists from accession countries (FCO), Cardiff; Federal Trust “Enlargement Question Time” – University of Kent; Europe Minister Denis MacShane visits East Midlands (Derby, Melton Mowbray, Leicester & Nottingham)
- 16-18/11/03 - Birmingham CBI Annual Conference - FCO & DTI EU Enlargement Stand
- 17/11/03 - Chatham House conference on "Doing Business in an Enlarged EU"
- 18/11/03 - Celebration of passage of European Union Accessions Bill - reception, FCO
- 18-21/11/03 - “Get wise to the new Europe” information event in Lisburn, N. Ireland
- 19/11/03 - EIC East Anglia enlargement event; Bury St Edmunds EIC Enlargement Seminar for businesses
- 21/11/03 - EIC Enlargement business event at Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
- 25/11/03 - DWP Minister Chris Pond visits Yorkshire & Humber (Leeds & Dewsbury)
- 26/11/03 - EIC enlargement campaign event, Essex; Start of Polish film season at the Filmhouse, Edinburgh
- 27/11/03 - EIC Market awareness seminar, Winchester
- 27/11/03 - BBC Website Enlargement quiz (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3238368.stm>)

Information Centre

- The Representation sent out 280 packs of enlargement-related materials to EPICs in late October/early November for use in enlargement-themed displays in public libraries. The free materials were supplied by new Member State embassies, DG Press and the Representation, and include a draft press release for use locally and a list of books and websites. The feedback on the packs was positive. The Representation also produced a promotional mousemat for EPICs with the theme "Europe is Growing".
- The EPIC AGM took place in London on 13 November, addressed by Commissioner Reding.

Other information activities

- Recent publications produced by the FCO to promote EU enlargement include: wall charts for schools, beer mats and lenticular postcards showing the current and future Europe. Throughout the year, FCO, with the DTI, will set up information stands at key trade fairs around the UK to explain the opportunities of enlargement.
- The FCO, with the DTI, launched a new webpage this year on the FCO website called "Opportunities New Europe" giving information on the Ministers' regional events programme.