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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EU POLICY.....	2
European Public Awareness of the Convention.....	2
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.....	2
Common Position on Human Tissues and Cells.....	3
Implementation of EU Environmental Legislation.....	3
New Measures to Combat Climate Change.....	3
Future Management Structures for GALILEO.....	4
eEurope 2005 Action Plan Mid-Term Review.....	4
European Platform for Women Scientists.....	4
Guidelines on Co-existence of GM and Non-GM Crops.....	5
Equal Treatment between Men and Women.....	5
Participation of EU Regions in the Knowledge Economy.....	6
Structural Funds Guidelines.....	6
RESEARCH NEWS.....	6
European Research Council Debate.....	6
Mapping European Centres of Excellence.....	7
Correlation between Fertility Rates and Employment.....	7
Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming.....	8
Nanotechnology: Public Debate Takes Off.....	8
Marine Research Infrastructure Report.....	8
New Report on the Organisation of Working Time.....	9
Vision of Households in the Cities of Tomorrow.....	9
Research Careers in the ERA Conference.....	10
Pan-European e-Government Survey.....	10
Preserving Paper Documents.....	11
Hair Dryer Discovery Leads to Waterproof Paper.....	11
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE.....	12
Syllabus for Clinical Investigation Training.....	12
EUA and the Role of Universities.....	12
EU to Promote Language Learning and Linguistic Diversity.....	12
EXTERNAL COLLABORATION.....	13
Canadian Participation in International Research.....	13
INTAS Call Results 2003.....	13
EVENTS and AWARDS.....	14
European Mobility Week 2003.....	14
Environment and Industry Symposium.....	15
Conference on Vehicle Passive Safety.....	15
EuroIndia 2004.....	15
NEW PUBLICATIONS and ONLINE RESOURCES.....	16
A 'Smart' Model for European Innovation Policy.....	16
New European Industrial Research Magazine.....	16
Report on Social Inclusion, Illness and Disability.....	17
GALILEO Joint Undertaking Website.....	17
CORDIS.....	17

IGLO Project Search	17
EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L).....	17
EUROPA.....	18
RAPID	18
GLOSSARY	18

EU POLICY

European Public Awareness of the Convention

A recently conducted 'Eurobarometer Flash' survey of 25,000 people in the enlarged EU area reveals that although public awareness was on the increase of the Convention and its proposals for reform, it still remains quite vague. Around 45 per cent of people are at least aware of the Convention in comparison to 30 per cent or so in March. There is strong support for reform in the form of a Constitution (68 per cent in favour) with 43 per cent preferring partial amendment by Heads of State and Government. Those best informed were the Greeks, Luxembourgers and Finns, with less than 30 per cent awareness among the British, Hungarian and Latvians.

Interest in the text itself varied from 38 per cent saying they would like to see a summary, to 40 per cent who said they had no intention of reading it. Most people surveyed were happy with just a partial amendment of the draft Constitutional Treaty, with only a small number wanting a radical revision or complete rejection. There was also considerable support for a truly European Constitution, the EP having the right to vote on all issues concerning the EU's future, an elected EU Foreign Minister and a Head of State and Government elected President of the Council.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index.htm

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

To be able to respond faster to health threats, such as SARS, and to increase preparedness for a possible bio-terrorist attack, the EC has proposed the creation of a new agency, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The ECDC together with its expert network would be able to rapidly deliver European-level advice to the EU and its Member States, which would facilitate rapid decision making towards controlling a new disease. The proposal will be forwarded to the EP and the Council for consideration under the co-decision procedure. If all goes as expected, the new Centre could be operational in 2005.

The main tasks of the ECDC would be:

- Epidemiological surveillance and laboratory networking across the EU;
- Early warning and response - 24 hour availability of disease experts;
- Scientific assessments and technical support based on its in-house expertise and that of its networks in the Member States;
- Forward planning against health crises;
- Communicating on health threats.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_overview/strategy/ecdc/ecdc_en.htm

Common Position on Human Tissues and Cells

The Council has formally adopted its common position on the proposed new law setting quality and safety standards for the handling of human tissues and cells.

The Agriculture Council adopted the political agreement (reached by the Health Council in June 2003) on a proposal for a Directive concerning human tissues and cells. This legislation will introduce more stringent requirements on the suitability of donors, screening of donated substances, as well as the traceability from donor to patient and vice versa. Rules for third country imports will also be established ensuring equivalent standards of quality and safety. The legislative proposal will now be forwarded to the EP for a second reading.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://ue.eu.int/en/Info/eurocouncil/index.htm>

Implementation of EU Environmental Legislation

The EC has released its fourth annual report on the implementation of EU environmental legislation in the Member States. Main findings show that Member States comply poorly with the legislation related to nature protection, environmental impact assessment, water and waste. Member States particularly failed to communicate their transposition measures to the EC in the fields of chemicals and biotechnology.

The United Kingdom, France and Luxembourg did least well in adopting transposition measures (national laws, regulations and administrative provisions) and communicating them to the EC in prescribed time limit. Austria is leading in having transposition measures that are not in conformity with the environmental directives.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/law/4th_en.pdf

New Measures to Combat Climate Change

The EC has adopted a new initiative to combat climate change globally. The proposal for a new Directive will allow European companies to carry out emissions-curbing projects around the world and convert the credits earned into emissions allowances under the EU emissions trading scheme. The proposal builds on the so-called market-based flexible mechanisms 'Joint Implementation' (JI) and the 'Clean Development Mechanism' (CDM) envisaged by the Kyoto Protocol. Their aim is to reach the global emissions reduction targets in a cost-effective way while transferring advanced technology to other industrialised and developing countries.

The proposal will enable the EC to ensure that EU emission targets will not exclusively be met by cutting emissions through projects. It envisages the triggering of a review once JI

and CDM project credits, equivalent to 6 per cent of the total quantity of allowances issued for the 2008-2012 trading period, enter the emissions trading scheme. If triggered, this review will consider placing a limit on the credits that can be converted during the remainder of the trading period. The introduction of such a quantitative limit would be done through the committee carrying out tasks in relation to the EU emissions trading scheme, where the Member States are represented.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/index.htm>

Future Management Structures for GALILEO

The EC has presented the future structures for managing the GALILEO programme in its deployment phase (2006-2008) and operational phase (from 2008). Two structures, each with essential public-interest missions, are proposed: a Supervisory Authority and a Centre for Safety and Reliability.

The Supervisory Authority will award the concession for deployment and operation of the GALILEO system to a private consortium selected after a call for tenders to be launched in the coming weeks. The Centre for Safety and Reliability, set up under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the Council, will in particular provide the interface between the political authorities and the concession holder in the event of a crisis.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/index_en.htm

eEurope 2005 Action Plan Mid-Term Review

In May 2002, the EC adopted a follow-up Action Plan to eEurope 2002, namely eEurope 2005, which will run from 2003 to 2005. The eEurope 2005 Action Plan sets out to promote the development of a knowledge-based economy in Europe.

The EC has now launched a public consultation to a mid-term review of the Action Plan. Contributions are invited by email and should be submitted by 25 September 2003.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/action_plan/mid-term_review/index_en.htm

European Platform for Women Scientists

According to an EC study, among the overall aims and future activities of the platform, announced originally under the Science and Society Action Plan in 2001, policy influencing at a national, European and institutional level came out as the most significant, with networking and awareness-raising next in importance. Activities could therefore include policy monitoring, dissemination of information, a network of national coordination points interacting with European (in particular DG Research) and other policy bodies and a bi-annual conference to create policy statements.

One concern which arose was the further widening of the gender gap in science through the creation of a women's organisation itself. To address this, the platform could only be temporary, influencing policy, enhancing and facilitating career access of women scientists, being as inclusive as possible, with men and women politicians involved at management level and with women to be included from other areas of life, so as to combine family and science careers.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/pdf/surveyoverview_en.pdf

Guidelines on Co-existence of GM and Non-GM Crops

The EC has published recommendations for the separation of genetically modified (GM) and non-GM crops in the Member States. The recommendations complement the regulatory framework by defining the technical and procedural aspects to be taken into account and by providing a list of possible actions that could be implemented at national, regional or local levels. The guidelines outline efficient and cost-effective measures for national strategies, without going beyond what is necessary to comply with EU threshold levels for GMO labelling.

Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth Europe and the European Environmental Bureau condemned the EC recommendations, criticising its 'advice to allow genetic contamination of organic products by applying a labelling threshold of 0.9 per cent GMOs to conventional and organic farming alike'. The environmental pressure groups, however, welcomed the EC recommendation that measures of a regional dimension could be considered to prevent GM contamination, as they felt this would open the door to regional bans of GM crops.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/reports/coexistence2/index_en.htm

Equal Treatment between Men and Women

The EC has prepared an options paper which sets out a number of possible approaches which could be followed in the simplification and improvement of the legislation in the area of equal treatment between men and women. Interested groups and individuals are invited to public consultation and to present their short and precise comments until 24 September 2003. Equal treatment between men and women is a fundamental principle of the EU. The provisions of primary legislation set out in the Treaty of Rome stated this and since then, subsequent amendments of the treaties have reinforced this principle. Significant progress has already been accomplished in terms of secondary legislation. At present there is a far-reaching acquis in the area of equal treatment between men and women, which has to be maintained, and on which any further development should be built.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please send comments to: empl-equality-consultation@cec.eu.int.

Participation of EU Regions in the Knowledge Economy

At the end of July 2003 the EC introduced the new 'Regions of Knowledge' pilot action. Projects that will be supported include technology audits, developing economic and technological future models at regional level, initiatives to promote university involvement with the local economy, mentoring between technologically advanced and less favoured regions, as well as awareness-raising actions focusing on the role of knowledge as a booster of regional development.

'Regions of Knowledge' recognises the crucial role of the regions in developing the ERA and driving economic growth. Research shows that there is a positive relationship between a region's spending on R&D and its overall wealth. Yet, the performance of the EU regions varies widely, with spending on R&D currently between 0.5 per cent and 3 per cent of their GDP. The EU aims for an increase of its investment in research to 3 per cent by 2010. With a deadline of mid-September the initial pilot funding level is limited.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.cordis.lu/era/regions.htm>

<http://www.cordis.lu/era/knowreg.htm>

Structural Funds Guidelines

After consultation with the Committee for the Development and Conversion of the Regions, regional and local authorities, the EC has published guidelines on the conditions and procedures concerning Structural Funds implementation in the electronic communications sector. The guidelines aim for greater legal certainty in designing and implementing investment projects.

Structural Funds for this sector are aimed at preventing a 'digital divide', increasing effectiveness and stimulating the competitive potential of disadvantaged regions. General criteria in the guidelines include encouraging regional and local authority participation in overall regional development strategy projects, taking into account specific regional features in targeting actions, being neutral in the choice of technology to finance and avoiding the risk of distorting competition by using open efforts to promote access to electronic networks.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/consultation/telecom_en.htm

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/newsroom/index_en.htm

RESEARCH NEWS

European Research Council Debate

The Academia Europaea, an international association of scientists, has published a second contribution to the debate on a European Research Council (ERC), which calls for the creation of a totally new entity supported entirely by Community funding. Guiding

principles would include focus on supporting long term, curiosity driven research with international collaboration as a high priority, methods of operation that ensure excellence and transparency, and a clear demarcation between the objectives of the ERC and other Community research programmes.

Due to its nature, financing should necessarily have to originate from public sector sources. Suggested 100 per cent Community funding should not divert resources from present international bodies or Community research programmes, but should represent an allocation of entirely new funds. Such a move, the Academia Europaea argues, would contribute significantly to meeting the Barcelona and Lisbon targets agreed by the EU's Heads of State and Government.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.acadeuro.org/downloads/SecondAcademiaCouncil.pdf>

Mapping European Centres of Excellence

In June 2003, the last meeting for a pilot exercise in mapping scientific excellence was held. The project was designed to identify existing and future European centres of excellence in bioscience, economics, nanoscience and nanotechnology. As part of the European Research Area objectives the project was launched in 2000 and has involved member, candidate and associated states.

Problems have beset the project from its start. The term 'excellence' caused problems with interpretation, as did the defining of the scientific disciplines, some of which are new and difficult to identify. Differences in organisational structures across universities in Europe also proved troublesome. The analysis of the project itself, and the methods employed were also criticised as lacking precision and reliability. Continuation and/or revision of the project will be contingent on the EC's summary report, due out in autumn 2003.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.cordis.lu/era/mapping.htm>

Correlation between Fertility Rates and Employment

An EU-funded review of studies considering the relationship between motherhood and employment has indicated that fertility rates across Europe will remain low unless the opportunity to combine employment and motherhood is made easier. Currently, fertility levels are below the replacement rate of 2.1 children per adult female in all EU Member States. To counteract this phenomenon, the review report recommends that parental leave should be a policy to encourage shared responsibility for childcare, and that such leave should be at least partly paid.

The report, 'The rationale of motherhood choices: influences of employment conditions and of public policies', was compiled to examine how motherhood decisions in EU Member States are affected by labour market conditions, and how public policies could be developed at national and European levels to promote shared responsibility for parenthood among dual career couples. Studies reviewed in the report demonstrate that government policies do influence women's employment, and that there is a correlation between the availability and quality of childcare facilities and mothers' employment rates.

The study provides supporting policy information to help Member States achieve the Lisbon objective of increasing to 60 per cent by 2010 the percentage of women employed.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/citizens/docs/motherhood_choices_2003.pdf

Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming

In February 2003, a working document and a questionnaire were published on the EC's website as part of the development of the EC's preparation of a 'European Action Plan for organic food and farming'. The public was invited to react to particular questions and to give additional comments.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A report summarising the key findings of this online consultation is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/plan/result_en.pdf

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/plan/index_en.htm

Nanotechnology: Public Debate Takes Off

Two new reports look at the social and environmental implications of nanotechnology, indicating a growing polarisation of the public debate. A report entitled 'The Social and Economic Challenges of Nanotechnology', published on 28 July 2003 by the UK Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC), looks at the scientific reality behind nanotechnology, the social and economic changes it might bring, and at the hopes and fears it triggers. The study calls for social science to promote public awareness and acceptance of nanotechnology to avoid a backlash similar to the one experienced during the public debate over genetic modification.

A second report entitled 'Future Technologies, Today's Choices', carried out for the Greenpeace Environmental Trust by the Imperial College London, and released on 24 July 2003, seeks to provide background information of global scope on nanotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, putting these emerging technologies into their technical, political and institutional context. The report demands that an in-depth analysis of environmental implications be conducted, stressing that while environmental benefits are conceivable in some areas, a number of practices which might lead to the release of nanoparticles into the environment cause major concern.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/industrial_technologies/03-06-03_pro-microchem_en.html

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/esrccontent/downloaddocs/nanotechnology.pdf>

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/MultimediaFiles/Live/FullReport/5886.pdf>

Marine Research Infrastructure Report

The European strategy forum for research infrastructure has produced a report suggesting that new forms of co-operation are needed in order to address the fragmentation of the European marine research area. Whilst some countries demonstrate

scientific excellence in this field, they do not always have access to the best facilities, and may lack the funding needed to carry out their research.

The new report looks at current co-operation practices and makes recommendations on future developments. One recommendation is for increased co-operation between national funding agencies across Europe; this is seen as crucial since 95 per cent of research funding comes from national sources, and only 5 per cent from the EU. Research teams in different Member States should share access to each other's facilities. And new research equipment should complement the existing facilities. The report's recommendations are seen to fit well within the context of the ERA and the creation of an internal European research market, with unrestricted mobility of researchers and research funding.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The report is available from:

http://www.aka.fi/modules/updown/download_file.asp?Id=32549ABE30384E3DAF3D27292E95E940

New Report on the Organisation of Working Time

A new research study concerning the emerging re-organisation of working time, as citizens attempt to meet social needs – such as care, family, learning and volunteering – has been published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. Together with the conceptual work an illustrative report of recent relevant developments in EU Member States, Japan and the US has been compiled.

The new report on 'A New Organisation of Time over Working Life', which represents the first phase of a wider study, is presented as a contribution to the debate and reflection upon time policies and quality of life. The key objective of the second phase, which began in June 2003, is to present empirical material on working time, leave and retirement arrangements and to examine these working time arrangements in relation to the interests, preferences and needs of employees, companies and national governments. It will analyse traditional and new time arrangements as well as related income provisions. The analysis will be based on existing cross-sectional and longitudinal data as well as relevant case study results.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.eurofound.eu.int/living/time_use.htm

Vision of Households in the Cities of Tomorrow

The 'ToolSust' project, an FP5 funded project has predicted that by 2040 many people will work from home for much of the week. A further prediction is that people will be limited to a certain number of 'air miles' per year, on environmental grounds.

ToolSust is looking at five European cities: Padua, Italy; Fredrikstad, Norway; Groningen, the Netherlands; Stockholm, Sweden; and Guildford, UK and surveying stakeholders, including citizens and public authorities, to find out which environmental problems they perceive to be the most serious, and what the possible solutions might be. The UK results indicate that whilst citizens believe that recycling and household energy conservation are the most serious, public authorities see traffic and transport as the greatest problem. The main obstacles to take up of sustainable technologies or practices were found to be high

prices, lack of availability, lack of information, and uncertainties over quality. Some of the suggested solutions for sustainable European cities include: government intervention; taxation shifts from labour to non-renewable materials; heavy taxes for polluting enterprises; raising money from green taxes; and the investment of fines in research and development into sustainable technologies.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.toolsust.org>

Research Careers in the ERA Conference

'The Career of a Researcher in the European Research Area' conference held in Florence, Italy, in July was held as part of the Italian Presidency of the EU. Representatives of all the Member States and most Accession Countries attended. The EC published its Communication 'Researchers in the European Research Area: One Profession, Multiple Careers', on the last day of the conference. There will be two more research policy conferences under the Italian Presidency of the EU, focusing on research infrastructure (November) and gender issues (December).

The key discussion points at the conference for the most part mapped on to the main areas of the Communication and were as follows:

- Public perception of research as a career;
- Role and nature of research training;
- Differences in recruitment methods;
- Contractual and budgetary dimension;
- Relationship between industry-academia;
- Need for European wide PhD quality standards;
- Need to train the trainers;
- Support for a European Charter on the 'Rights of the Researcher';
- Evaluation and career progression.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A copy of all the speakers' presentations and other conference information can be obtained at:

<http://www.cineca.it/hosted/incm/ce2003/index.php>

Pan-European e-Government Survey

The first pan-European benchmarking study on e-government sites and service users will be made public in September.

The European e-public services organisation e-Forum has partnered with the Internet measurement and analysis service Nielsen/NetRatings to complete the study on the audience and success of e-government and non-profit organisation websites. The study, which will be published during the first e-Forum Summit in September in Valencia, Spain, was compiled from feedback from a panel of over 39,000 Internet users in the UK, France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden and Italy. The researchers' aim was to quantify and qualify the audiences for the above eight countries' e-government sites, and based on the data to draw up profiles of e-government service users. These profiles are expected to greatly promote the work of service providers and policymakers engaged in e-government service development.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.eu-forum.org/>

Preserving Paper Documents

An FP5-funded project, entitled 'InkCor', is tackling the problem of conservation of historical documents. Many paper documents are at risk, due to the fact that some old ink recipes have corrosive properties. Consequently, the project, which involves universities, research institutes and museums from France, Germany, the Netherlands and Slovenia, is focussing on understanding ink corrosion.

The damage caused by ink corrosion is extensive, as is highlighted by various museum studies across Europe with levels from 25 per cent to 60 per cent of documents affected. Variations in the recipes of the iron gall ink mean that identification of the corrosive components is extremely complicated. The InkCor project is the first time that there has been a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to this widespread problem. The researchers have managed to pinpoint the metals and acids responsible for the corrosion, and have developed mechanisms to predict the stability of a historical document containing iron gall ink. This is achieved by measuring the thickness of the applied ink, the thickness of the paper, and the acidity of the ink. The developments mean that conservation treatment of historic documents can be carried out in time to prevent their deterioration.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.infosrvr.nuk.uni-lj.si/jana/InkCor/index.htm>

Hair Dryer Discovery Leads to Waterproof Paper

The PHYCELLO project, funded under FP5, began with a chance observation by French biochemist, Daniel Samain, who once sought to amuse his children with a Christmas message written in invisible ink. He wrote 'Joyeux Noel' on a sheet of paper using a water-repellent fatty acid chloride – so that, when the sheet was immersed in water, the words would appear in dry contrast against the wetted background. He used a hair dryer to dry the liquid faster, but when the message was developed, he noted that the letter 'O' had become a completely filled dry circle. Samain deduced that the hot air was acting as a solvent, dispersing the fatty acid chloride at a rate that could be controlled by varying the flow and temperature. Samain quickly patented this basis for a novel and highly exploitable technology.

Current industrial methods of making paper products more water repellent have distinct disadvantages, causing high levels of waste and the formation of slimy degradation products, or reducing the paper's biodegradability and recyclability. The new method uses very small quantities of chemicals and, with sufficient development effort, should become cost-effective enough for widespread use. The result will be a more durable paper that retains all the desirable attributes of sustainability and environment-friendliness.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/industrial_technologies/18-08-03_pro-phycello_en.html

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CULTURE

Syllabus for Clinical Investigation Training

In preparation for the implementation phase of the EU clinical trials directive, the European Science Foundation (ESF) has developed a training syllabus aimed at harmonising scientific knowledge in the area of clinical studies. The new syllabus is specifically targeted at potential clinical investigators and at helping them to critically evaluate study proposals, conduct studies according to good clinical practices (GCP), and conclude and report valid data as rapidly as possible.

The programme is also expected to provide sponsors of clinical trials, regulators and ethical committee members, as well as members of scientific and university councils, with a better understanding of the different processes involved. By reaching all the stakeholders involved in the process, ESF believes that the syllabus will fulfil its objective of defining a common basis for ethical values, and scientific and quality assurance principles covering all types of clinical trials, upon which countries and universities will be able to build individual courses.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.esf.org/newsrelease/66/emrcsyllabus287.pdf>

EUA and the Role of Universities

The European Universities Association (EUA) have adopted their Graz Declaration 'Forward from Berlin: the role of universities' which sets a clear agenda for the next phase of development of the European Higher Education and Research Areas to the European Education Ministers meeting in Berlin in September. The text emphasises the central role that universities must play: a responsibility which is welcomed, provided that a stable legal and funding environment is assured. The Declaration asserts that higher education in Europe is a broad public responsibility and one to which governments must remain committed.

The integral link between learning and research in higher education is also highlighted, underscoring the need for governments to promote the interaction between the European Higher Education and Research Areas in the interest of improving the quality and attractiveness of European institutions, and meeting the developing needs of a knowledge society. The EUA also proposes a coherent Quality Assurance policy for Europe as a means to develop trust and confidence between institutions and countries. The starting point is for universities to assume responsibility for internal quality culture, and for all stakeholders to be involved in European-level developments.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.unige.ch/eua/En/Publications/Graz_Decl.pdf

EU to Promote Language Learning and Linguistic Diversity

The EC has adopted an action plan for the period 2004-2006 aimed at promoting language learning and linguistic diversity throughout the EU. The plan aims to draw on the Member States' existing education and training programmes. The EU's two major programmes, Socrates (general education) and Leonardo da Vinci (vocational training)

already provide support for language teaching projects. Specific language teaching-related projects are also offered under the auspices of the Structural Funds, the European Investment Bank and the Community programme MEDIA Plus.

Among others, the action plan aims to provide:

- funding for a study on teaching languages to very young people;
- funding for transnational language teaching projects for primary school and pre-school groups;
- support for projects that take language teaching out of the strict language-learning context;
- pertinent information on the EU Europa website;
- support to the organisation of a European conference on the recruitment of foreign language teachers in 2006;
- support for work on a European language skills indicator in 2005 and 2006.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

Canadian Participation in International Research

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) have invested one million Canadian dollars in a one-year pilot programme to help fund Canadian participation in international health research activities such as FP6. The International Opportunities Program (IOP) will accept proposals until February 2004, and will provide funding to successful proposals within four to eight weeks.

Two types of grants will be available:

- Development and Planning Grants, to facilitate the creation of partnerships, are worth a maximum of \$25K.
- Collaborative Research Grants, worth up to \$100K, must form part of an application submitted to an international research project being funded by a foreign funder, such as FP6. Collaborative Research Grants will not be subject to a Canadian peer review.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.cih-irsc.gc.ca/services/partnerships/international/index_e.shtml

INTAS Call Results 2003

In 2003 INTAS (The International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union) received 1434 research and network proposals, 34 Innovation Grant applications and 940 Young Scientist applications through the new INTAS e-submission system. INTAS has received a total of 1289 eligible proposals in the Open Call, 95 proposals for the INTAS-Belarus call, 20 proposals for the INTAS-GSI call, 19 proposals for the INTAS-CNES call and 11 proposals for the INTAS-CERN call. Some 8700 teams from both the INTAS members and the NIS countries participated in these open, collaborative and thematic submissions.

INTAS calls for Young NIS Scientist Fellowships (total budget €2.5 million) and for Innovation Grants (total budget €500,000) have now closed. Following preliminary analyses, 34 eligible proposals were received for the new Innovation Grants, involving 89 partners from both the INTAS members and the NIS countries. Some 940 eligible Young Scientist Fellowship applications were received. The INTAS General Assembly will make the final selection in November 2003, and the INTAS funded research projects and networks, Innovation Grant contracts and Young Scientist Fellowships should start in early 2004.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.intas.be>

EVENTS and AWARDS

European Mobility Week 2003

16 to 22 September will be European Mobility Week 2003. There will be a week of events on sustainable mobility, based around the theme of 'accessibility', and focussing, in particular, on aspects of urban mobility. The initiative arose from the finding that almost 40 per cent of the transport sector's CO₂ emissions are produced by the use of private cars in cities. The aims of the week are to: promote existing policies and best practices on sustainable urban mobility; launch new policies and initiatives; raise citizens' awareness of the issues; establish partnerships between local stakeholders; share a common goal and identity with other European towns and cities; and, emphasise local commitment towards sustainable urban transport policies.

The week will culminate in European Car Free Day on 22 September 2003. An 'In town without my car' event will be organised on that day by each local authority taking part in the initiative. To show their commitment to the initiatives, many of the participating associations and organisations (including the Community of European Railways, the European Disability Forum, and the European Schoolnet) have signed a 'European Mobility Week Pledge'. With its theme of accessibility, this year's events will also contribute to the European Year of Persons with Disabilities.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Full details of European Mobility Week 2003, including a list of participating and supporting towns and cities, are available at:

<http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org/>

Details of 'In town without my car' are available at:

<http://www.22september.org>

The European Mobility Week Pledge can be found at:

http://www.mobilityweek-europe.org/documents/char03_en.pdf

Environment and Industry Symposium

The Romanian national research and development institute for industrial ecology will hold its 25th anniversary symposium on 'environment and industry' from 29 to 31 October in Bucharest, Romania.

The symposium is aimed at experts in environmental research from universities, research institutes, industry and local and national environmental authorities. The focus will be on four topics: present trends in environmental technologies; pollution evaluation, environmental audit; performance methods and techniques for industrial pollution control and monitoring; and legislation, environment and quality management.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Conference on Vehicle Passive Safety

The fourth annual conference of the European vehicle passive safety network will take place in Paris, France, on 6 November 2003.

The network involves 55 partners, representing almost all EU countries, and includes research institutes and universities, car manufacturers, and suppliers of safety systems. The results of the last two years' work will be presented at the event, with technical presentations of EU-funded projects on this topic.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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<http://www.passivesafety.com>

EuroIndia 2004

EuroIndia2004 will take place in New Delhi, India, from 24 to 26 March 2004. The event, which is funded by the EC, aims to showcase the European vision on Information Society Technology (IST), and to increase international co-operation in this area.

IST players from over 40 countries are expected to attend the event, which will include thematic sessions, exhibition networking meetings, and 'get in touch' presentations. On-line registration is available at the web address below.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.euroindia2004.org>

Or contact:

EuroIndia2004 Conference Secretariat

Tel: + 33 5 56 15 11 98
Fax: + 33 5 56 15 11 60
E-mail: info@euroindia2004.org

NEW PUBLICATIONS and ONLINE RESOURCES

A 'Smart' Model for European Innovation Policy

A new EC publication summarises 11 recent reports on innovation policy and outlines a European model for 'smart' innovation policy. The publication is designed to help policy makers at regional, national and European level to introduce effective and targeted legislation to promote innovation in the EU. It is based on a study, undertaken by DG Enterprise, which aims to examine topics of concern to policy makers in Europe, in order to improve their understanding of organisations' innovation needs, and to assess the impact and shortcomings of current policies.

The book reviews innovation policies and activities within the 13 accession and candidate countries, assessing the extent to which businesses are ready to compete in the European single market. It also examines the success of respective national innovation policies, and concludes that while a number of problems exist, policy intervention can have a dramatic effect if innovation is a priority both in political and budgetary terms. Furthermore, the publication offers an assessment of the correlation between innovation and employment, and an analysis of co-operation between universities and the private sector. It also looks at the funding of innovation, the impact of industrial relations policies on innovation and corporate tax regimes as a means of promoting innovation.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

http://www.cordis.lu/innovation-policy/studies/ca_study4.htm

New European Industrial Research Magazine

The EC has launched a new magazine focusing on industrial research in Europe. Focusing primarily on nano-sciences, materials and production processes, the magazine will provide an outline of the latest news and views on industrial research in the field.

The launch edition considers the central role of industrial research in facilitating the change to a knowledge-based society. Further, it examines the possibility of achieving longer lasting results from industrial research, whilst developing research priorities for Europe.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Copies of this magazine may be downloaded from

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/industrial_technologies/magazine_en.html

Report on Social Inclusion, Illness and Disability

This report looks at ways of achieving a more inclusive society for those with a serious mental or physical illness, with regard to policy development and service delivery. The report aims to identify areas which enable social and economic integration.

Aiming to lead to further debate on these issues, the report coincides with the European Year of People with Disabilities and is primarily concerned with social inclusion for people of working age.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.eurofound.eu.int/publications/files/EF0335EN.pdf>

GALILEO Joint Undertaking Website

The website for the GALILEO Joint Undertaking, the management body for the EU-ESA GALILEO global positioning and navigation system is now live. The site contains mostly technical information related to the tendering and procurement activities which will be managed by this body but is expected to include information of more interest to the general public in the near future.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.galileoju.com/>

CORDIS

CORDIS is the Community Research and Development Information Service. It is a web-based service which provides information on EU R&D programmes and related issues.

URL: <http://www.cordis.lu>

IGLO Project Search

The IGLO Project Service offers a forum for publishing and disseminating details of proposed FP6 project and/or research skills offered. Using the service will enable researchers to find contacts and partners within the international research community as well as contributing to the mobilisation of a critical mass of researchers in a specific research area.

URL: <http://www.iglortd.org/>

EUR-LEX (Official Journal C and L)

This website provides information on European Union Law. It includes electronic copies of the Treaties and recent copies of the Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ). The OJ, published daily in eleven languages, consists of two related series, the L series (Legislation) and the C series (Information, notices and preparatory EU legislation), a supplement and an annex. EUR-Lex provides free access to the C and L series of the Official Journal for a period of forty-five days following publication. (The OJ issue with the

Euro exchange rates (L 359, 31/12/1998) is permanently available in PDF format in EUR-Lex).

URL: EUR-LEX <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html>

Official Journal C & L <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>

Treaty of Amsterdam <http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html>

EUROPA

EUROPA is the official European Union's Server. It contains links to the EP, the European Council, the EC and other EU institutions and contains information on EU policies listed by subject area.

URL: <http://www.europa.eu.int/index-en.htm>

RAPID

RAPID is a database giving a daily view of the activities of the European Union as presented by the Institutions in their press releases.

EC Press Releases are available at:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh>

GLOSSARY

A&S	Aeronautics and Space Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
C&G	Citizens and Governance Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
COST	European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research is a framework for scientific and technical co-operation, allowing the coordination of national research on a European level. http://www.netmaniacs.com/cost/
'Council'	'Council' refers to the 'Council of Ministers', the principle decision-making body within the European Union. It has both executive and legislative powers, the latter in some cases exercised jointly with the European Parliament (co-decision procedure). The Council is composed of one representative at ministerial level from each Member State. Which Ministers attend each Council meeting varies according to the subject discussed, e.g. The Minister of Science in the UK attends the Research Council. http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm
Culture 2000	First European Community Framework Programme in support of culture, which runs from 2000-2004 (inclusive). http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/culture/index_en.html
EC	The European Commission - made up of 20 Commissioners nominated by the Member States - both initiates proposals for

	<p>EU legislation and executes EU policies and actions. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm</p>
eEurope	<p>eEurope A political initiative of the EC to allow Europe to benefit fully from the Information Society. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/information_society/eeurope/documentation/index_en.htm</p>
EP	<p>The European Parliament - which is made up of elected representatives (MEPs) from all the Member States. It shares decision-making power with the Council in a number of areas including research and education. http://www.europarl.eu.int/sg/tree/en/default.htm</p>
ERA	<p>European Research Area. On 18 January 2000, the EC issued a Communication entitled "Towards a European Research Area" which proposed ways in which research in Europe could be more effectively organised and coordinated. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/area.html</p>
ESC	<p>European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body made up of representatives of Europe's employers' organisations, trade unions, farmers, consumer groups and professional associations. http://www.ces.eu.int/ Press Releases: http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/fr_acs_press_rels.htm</p>
ESF	<p>European Science Foundation. http://www.esf.org/</p>
ESF	<p>The European Social Fund http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/esf/en/index.htm</p>
Eureka	<p>Eureka is a Europe-wide network for Industrial Research and Development. http://www3.eureka.be/Home/</p>
FQS	<p>Food Quality and Safety Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</p>
FP (FP5, FP6)	<p>The EU's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) was adopted in 1998 and will run until 2002, when the next framework programme (FP6) is expected to supersede it.</p> <p>FP5 is composed of four thematic programmes (see QoL, IST, Growth, EESD) and three horizontal programmes (see INCO II, Innovation and SMEs, and IHP). http://www.cordis.lu/fp5</p>
GBH	<p>Genomics and Biotechnology for Health Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm</p>

Green Paper	Green Papers are communications published by the European Commission on a specific policy area. Primarily they are documents addressed to interested parties who are invited to participate in a process of consultation and debate. In some cases they provide an impetus for subsequent legislation.
ITRE	The European Parliament Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (FP5) http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/en/default.htm
INTAS	International Association for the promotion of co-operation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. http://www.intas.be/mainfs.htm
IST	Information Society Technologies Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
MEDIA	The MEDIA Plus Programme (2001 - 2005) is to be introduced as a follow-up to the Media II programme which ends in December 2000. The programme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry. http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html
Mobility	Human Resources and Mobility Programme (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation http://www.nato.int/
NMP	Nanotechnology, Materials and Production Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
PHARE	The Phare Programme is the European Union's instrument for financial and technical co-operation with the countries of central and eastern Europe. http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare/index.htm
RTD	Research and Technological Development
SDGC	Sustainable Development and Global Change Priority (FP6) http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/activities.htm
TACIS	The Tacis Programme aims to forge closer economic and political links with the former republics of the Soviet Union and Mongolia (also known as New Independent States (NIS)) http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg1a/tacis/index.htm
Treaty of Amsterdam	The Treaty of Amsterdam was signed in October 1997 and entered into force on 1 May 1999. http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/index.html

UUK Universities UK
 (formerly the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals)
 <http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk>

White Paper White Papers are documents containing proposals for
 Community action in a specific area. They often follow a
 Green Paper.

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