ECHO
FACTS FOR USERS

Two ECHO User Meetings!

Being present at Infobase, Frankfurt, and also at the IDT '94 Conference and Exhibition (Marchés et Industries de l'Information) in Paris, provided ECHO with the opportunity to host a User Meeting in both of these major cities.

The User Meetings addressed audiences in the language of their host country and presentations included information on DG XIII's IMPACT programme, news from ECHO, CORDIS, Eurobases and EUR-OP. The respective National Awareness Partners also had a role to play in the meetings and presentations were given both in Germany and in France on their activities as NAPs. Both User Meetings attracted an impressive number of participants and ended with informal discussions.

Further information on these User Meetings can be obtained from the ECHO help desk.

IMPACT, ECHO and Internet

ECHO is happy to announce the launch of the new I'M – (Information Market) Europe World Wide Web service, which is to open on 1 September 1994. An initiative of DG XIII-E (Information industry and market and language processing) of the European Commission, the World Wide Web will provide information on the European Union and initiatives for the global information society .

The information can be accessed in the following ways:

http: //www.echo.lu/
Telnet www.echo.lu (Telnet access to the Lynx Line-mode browser).
Login: www

Further details on I'M-EUROPE will be provided in the forthcoming issue of ECHO Facts for Users (4/94).
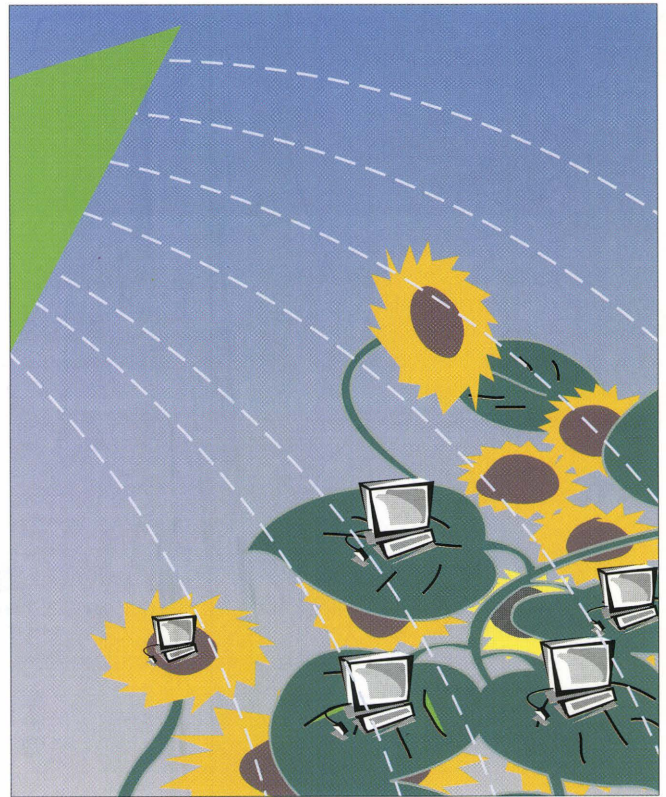
Expansion of the National Awareness Partners Network

The National Awareness Partners (NAP) network has been in operation within the Member States of the European Union since September 1992 when a total of 16 organisations throughout the EU were selected by the European Commission together with IMPACT Programme Committee representatives.

Since the establishment of the network, the NAPs have been carrying out awareness activities throughout the Member States regarding the use and benefits of electronic information. They have been actively hosting training courses, participating in exhibitions and conferences in order to "spread the word" to existing and/or potential users of electronic information services.

Since the early stages of the development of the network the National Awareness Partners have been able to show that the aims of the network apply not only in theory but in practice. A network of partners has the advantages of:

- Catering for local or regional requirements of which they have first hand knowledge
- Communicating in the user's own language
- Easy access for national organisations.

The mid-term evaluation report for the IMPACT (Information Market Policy Actions) programme has highlighted the necessity for the expansion of the network. To this end, additional NAPs have now been welcomed to the network from France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Spain. The most noticeable change is the inclusion of

those EFTA countries (participating in the European Economic Area-EEA) in the network, meaning that new partners have been identified in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. As the EFTA countries are now participating in the IMPACT programme it is therefore appropriate that organisations in these countries should be selected as National Awareness Partners.

Like their counterparts, the new National Awareness Partners will receive the full support and guidance of the Commission and the Central Support Team located in Luxembourg. The organisations chosen are already active in their own country in promoting electronic information.

In this issue of ECHO Facts for Users we are pleased to be able to introduce three of the new National Awareness Partners to you. More introductions will follow in issue 4/94.

The new National Awareness Partners (NAPs)

Ireland

BTiS (University of Limerick Business and Technical Information Service) is an independent business operation based within the University of Limerick Library. Established in 1991, BTiS has pioneered a commercial information service to Irish industry. Currently over 100 Irish companies use BTiS facilities as their sole source of information back-up.

BTiS is an extension of the University of Limerick's Library and Information Service and is specifically tailored to the needs of business, industry and the professions. BTiS can serve as the sole resource for the information needs of Irish industry or act as an ideal supplement to existing research.

BTiS is the Irish National Co-ordinator of AMITIE, a COMETT UETP, which has been promoting Information Technology to European Industry since 1991. As AMITIE National Co-ordinator BTiS has conducted a training needs analysis of Irish Industry in the following areas: Software, Information (databases) and Communications. AMITIE has also run several programmes and seminars for industry and within Ireland BTiS has held:

- Small Library Systems Seminar

- Corporate Document Management Seminar

- Electronic Information for Industry and the Information Professionals.

As President of EIRENE (European Network of Information Professionals) the Manager of BTiS has been involved in the production of the European Code of Practice for Information Brokers.

For further information on BTiS and its activities as a National Awareness Partner please contact:

BTiS
University of Limerick
Plassey Technological Park
Limerick
Ireland

Contact: Ms Martina Flynn

Tel.: +353-61-333644
Fax: +353-61-338044.

Norway

Statskonsult is a governmental agency under the umbrella of the Royal Ministry of Government Administration. The agency employs a total of 120 staff which are organised into four departments:

- Analysis Department

- Advisory Department

- Department for Training and Development

- Department of Administrative Affairs.

Statskonsult 's activities are mainly aimed at central government bodies. The activities are organised as programmes which have specific aims and target groups. The programmes may be sub-divided but the main programmes address the following areas:

- Management by objectives in the public administration

- International affairs: follow up of various research and development programmes in the European Union and elsewhere

- Quality of public service, user focus in public service delivery

- Public administration's support for the industry, especially SMEs, reducing the administrative burden on enterprises.

Statkonsult's mission is to advise the Norwegian government on administrative development. To submit proposals for and to help implement the national administration policy.

Statskonsult is a national coordinator for contacts with the IMPACT pro-

gramme, the ENS (European Nervous System) programme, the INFOSEC programme and the IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrations) programme.

The responsibility for the NAP activities is placed with the Advisory Department's IT Division. The division has 15 employees, working in the main on IT standardisation and support to building a national information infrastructure in Norway in cooperation with various governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The IT division has been engaged in activities aimed at promoting better access to and efficient utilisation of electronic information in public administration as well as better synergy between the public and the private sector in the field of development of electronic information services based on governmental information. Under the heading of "information as our common resource" the group has initiated several projects in the public sector, in cooperation with the private sector. The aim of the projects was to promote the creation of new and advanced information services based on government information and to stimulate the users primarily in governmental agencies, but also in the industry, to use electronic information in their work.

For further information on Statskonsult and their activities as a National Awareness Partner please contact:

Statskonsult, IT-Division
Directorate of Public Management
Falbesgt. 5 Box 8115 Dep
N-0032 Oslo

Contact: Mr Rolf Borgerud

Tel.: +47-2245-1000
Fax: +47-2260-2111.

France

As public organisations the Chambers of Commerce and Industry have four main goals:

- Representation of businesses working alongside local and national public administration

- To carry out training for beginners and advanced users

- Infrastructural management and collective equipment

- Information and business support.

Within the information world, the CCIP, in coordination with the French "CCI Network", has the following objectives:

- to create awareness and to train businesses to be aware of the conditions of purchase and of information management

- to ensure wide access to professional information for businesses by producing data and by collecting and redistributing all available information

- to establish the know-how of French companies through databases produced by the CCI

- to contribute to the strengthening of the French and European professional information industry.

In order to do this, the CCIs rely upon all the resources which their presence throughout France and their experience in information for and on industries represents.

They produce and diffuse information in all formats (paper, databases on Minitel terminals and professional hosts, CD-ROM).

They offer a range of services covering documentation centres, information brokerage as well as training and consulting in the field of documentation.

They cover all areas of professional information: regulations (legal, financial, fiscal .....), local, national and international economy, business opportunities, information on markets and products, scientific and technical information, foreign trade and European information.

For further information on the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris and its activities as a National Awareness Partner please contact:
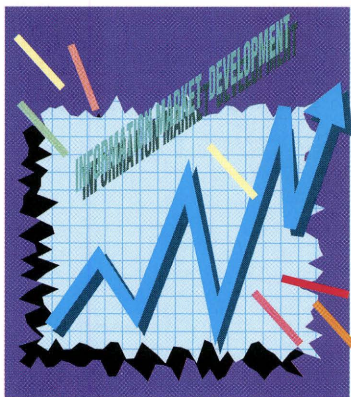
Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris
Direction de l'Information Economique
27 avenue de Friedland
F-75352 Paris Cédex 08

Tel.: +33-1-42-89-72-18/42-89-72-42
Fax: +33-1-42-89-72-41.

Contact:

Georges Fischer
Evelyne Houdard-Duval.

I'M Guide – a different perspective

The I'M Guide database has many facets. At a first glance, the database can be used as one would use a directory – i.e. to look up information on exactly what products exist in today's European market, which organisations host which databases, who produces the products, what types of products exist, in which languages and in which country, etc. Viewed from another perspective, the I'M Guide can be a useful and effective "market indicator", whereby users can judge and analyse, for example, the number of products produced per country, the country which is most active in production or distribution of products and, indeed, the type of products available on the European market.

Obtaining statistics

There are two fields in I'M Guide which allow the user to obtain statistics on the database; namely EDATE (date of record creation) and UDATE (last update). In the example given below, the EDATE field has been used.

Since the beginning of 1994, how many new types of products have been added to and/or updated in the database and in what languages do these new product types appear? (User input is shown in bold.)

F EDATE>=940101

1.00 NUMBER OF HITS IS 1642

?

F PRTY=$

2.00 NUMBER OF HITS IS 5422

?

F 1 AND 2

3.00 NUMBER OF HITS IS 1187

?

S REPORT=STAT;F=LA;SAMPLE=1187

SEQUENCE   =
1+ASCENDING
2 DESCENDING
3 OCCURRENCE

RECORDS:	1187	GROUPS:	14
TOTAL:	1355	MISSING:	92
VALID:	1263	INVALID:	0

N.B. Of the 1187 records, 14 groupings, sorted by language, have been obtained. 92 records are labelled as "missing" since the language for these particular records is not known. All of the records are valid.

OCC	%	TERM	+
6	0.48	CZEC	!
44	3.48	DANH	!***
8	0.63	DUTH	!*
813	64.37	ENGL	!**********
49	3.88	FINN	!***
92	7.28	FREN	!******
144	11.40	GERM	!*********
17	1.35	ITAL	!*
2	0.16	JAPN	!
2	0.16	MULG	!
33	2.61	NORG	!**
3	0.24	RUSS	!
15	1.19	SPAN	!*
35	2.77	SWED	!**

END OF SHOW

N.B. MULG is the abbreviation for Multilingual. The table provides a graphic indication of the percentage of records relating to the languages listed.

Please remember that since I'M Guide is updated every fortnight the same search strategies may obtain different results from those featured in this article. The EDATE field will certainly be of interest to market analysts and proves once again the flexibility of this database.

If you have further questions relating to I'M Guide please do not hesitate to contact the ECHO help desk.

TED

Η TED τώρα και στα Ελληνικά

Το ECHO με υπερηφάνεια σας ανακοινώνει ότι προσφέρει στους Έλληνες χρήστες την τράπεζα πληροφοριών TED σ'ένα πλήρες εξελληνισμένο περιβάλλον. Η διάθεση τραπεζών πληροφοριών και στις εννέα επίσημες γλώσσες δεν είναι εύκολη υπόθεση αν και το ECHO έχει αποκτήσει σημαντική εμπειρία μέσω της τράπεζας πληροφοριών Eurodicautom, η οποία επίσης προσφέρεται στα ελληνικά καθώς και σε όλες τις γλώσσες που περιέχουν, τονούμενους ή όχι, λατινικούς χαρακτήρες. Το ECHO είναι το πρώτο κέντρο πληροφόρησης που προσφέρει την TED και στις εννέα επίσημες γλώσσες.

Οι δημόσιες προκηρύξεις έχουν μεγάλο ενδιαφέρον γιά κάθε επιχειρησιακή δραστηριότητα ανεξάρτητα μεγέθους και τόπου. Μέσα από την TED, πληροφορίες για συμβόλαια δημοσίων έργων, προμηθειών και υπηρεσιών είναι διαθέσιμες σε καθημερινή βάση για το κοινό, από Δευτέρα μέχρι Παρασκευή, την ίδια μέρα που η πληροφορία δημοσιεύεται στο συμπλήρωμα S της Επίσημης Εφημερίδας. Η TED είναι η ηλεκτρονική έκδοση σ'απ'ευθείας σύνδεση του συμπληρώματος S.

Τα πλεονεκτήματα από την χρήση της TED είναι ποικιλόμορφα. Αντί ν'αφιερώνετε χρόνο να εξετάζετε την έντυπη έκδοση του συμπληρώματος S, μπορείτε, είτε μέσω μενού είτε χρησιμοποιώντας την Κοινή Γλώσσα Εντολών (CCL- Common Command Language), να εντοπίζετε και να τυπώνετε τις προκηρύξεις που ανταποκρίνονται στα ενδιαφεροντά σας. Επί πλέον μπορείτε ν'αποθηκεύετε στο σύστημα και να ενεργοποιείτε όταν το θελήσετε απλές ή πολύπλοκες έρευνες για τις οποίες μια καθημερινή αναζήτηση ίσως είναι απαραίτητη. Ακόμα μια ευκολία που σας επιτρέπει να κερδίζετε χρόνο εφ'όσον δεν είστε υποχρεωμένοι να ξαναεισάγετε στο σύστημα τις ίδιες έρευνες.

Η τράπεζα πληροφοριών TED δεν είναι χρήσιμη μόνο σ'αυτούς που ενδιαφέρονται για τις διαθέσιμες ενεργές διακηρύξεις. Η τράπεζα πληροφοριών περιέχει έγγραφα όπως προενημερωτικές ανακοινώσεις, ανακοινώσεις κατακύρωσης συμβάσεων, τροποποιήσεις, περαιτέρω υποδείξεις και πληροφορίες. Ολα τά έγγραφα που έχουν δημοσιευθεί στην TED καταχυρώνονται σε ηλεκτρονικά αρχεία, ήδη από το 1986, και οι χρήστες που έχουν πρόσβαση στην TED μπορούν συχρόνως να συμβουλεύονται αυτά τα αρχεία. Αυτό το είδος πληροφόρησης είναι άκρως ενδιαφέρον για όσους ενδιαφέρονται για επισκοπήσεις της αγοράς και παρόμοιου τύπου εργασίες. Οι αρχειοθετημμένες εγγραφές είναι διαθέσιμες μόνο στην αγγλική γλώσσα (λόγω χώρου!). Παρ'όλα αυτά, από την 1η Ιανουαρίου 1994, τα εν λόγω αρχεία θα περιέχουν επίσης τις διακηρύξεις στην αρχική τους γλώσσα δημοσίευσης (αν είναι διαφορετική από τα αγγλικά).

Από την 1η Ιανουαρίου 1994, τα έγγραφα της τράπεζας πληροφοριών προσφέρονται στον χρήστη στην γλώσσα που επιλέγει και συχρόνως στην αρχική τους γλώσσα δημοσίευσης. Για να χρησιμοποιήσετε την τράπεζα πληροφοριών στα ελληνικά θα πρέπει να διαθέτετε ένα τερματικό με ελληνικούς χαρακτήρες και κατά προτίμηση το πρότυπο ελληνικών χαρακτήρων όπως έχει οριστεί απο το ISO 8859-7 ή το ισοδύναμό του ΕΛΟΤ 928. Αν ο χρήστης δεν διαθέτει το απαραίτητο πρότυπο ελληνικών χαρακτήρων, μπορεί να χρησιμοποιήσει ένα από τα πολλά υπάρχοντα προγράμματα τηλεπικοινωνιών που παρέχουν δυνατότητες δυναμικής μετρατοπής χαρακτήρων.

Η τράπεζα πληροφοριών TED είναι προσβάσιμη στα ελληνικά μέσω ενός εθνικού δικτύου μεταγωγής ανά πακέτο χρησιμοποιώντας την παρακάτω διεύθυνση:

- Διεύθυνση Χρήστη Δικτύου (Network User Adress - NUA) : +270442124

Για μια επιτυχή σύνδεση πρέπει να χρησιμοποιήσετε τις παρακάτω παραμέτρους:

- 8 bits δεδομένων
- Χωρίς έλεγχο ισοτιμίας
- 1 στοπ bit
- full duplex
- Η ταχύτητα εξαρτάται από το modem που χρησιμοποιείτε.

Η τράπεζα πληροφοριών κοστίζει 60 ECU ανά ώρα σύνδεσης με μια επιπλέον επιβάρυνση 0.8 ECU για κάθε πλήρη εγγραφή που εκτυπώνετε.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τους όρους συνδρομής παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε:

ECHO help desk
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg

Τηλ: +352-34981-200
Φαξ: +352-34981-234

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

TED available in the Greek language!

The TED database is now available in the Greek language. Specific communication software is required for accessing the database in this language and users wishing to obtain further information may like to contact the ECHO help desk or consult the INFO GREEK on-line information file.

Users accessing TED via the 7 bit setting should have no problems when encountering a document written in the Greek language. A specific filter has been set up by ECHO which means that the Greek characters will be transliterated and will not appear as "Greek" on the user's screen.

As stated, further information may be obtained from the ECHO help desk.

Searching for the successful bidder

Finding out who succeeded in winning a Call for Tender is interesting not only for the competitor but also for the market analyst. The name of the company who won the contract was always announced within the TEXT field of the database and now this section of the data has been indexed and a new field has been created. For example, typing:

S F=CO

or

F CO=STAR$

will prompt the system to show the CO (company) field or search for the company by the name of "Star" within the database, in order to see if they have won any contracts.

Of course, this command may be used only in conjunction with contract awards (TD=7) and/or results of design contests (TD=R). All other documents in the current files of the database deal with on-going tenders.

What was the Original Language?

If a document was issued from Brussels, was it originally issued in French or Flemish? If a tender was published from Luxembourg, was it written in French or German? The user now has the possibility of finding out the answers to such queries by using the new "OL" (Original Language) field.

For example, typing:

F LUXEMBOURG

S F=OL

will tell you in which language the document you have viewed or are about to view was originally written. This field allows you to know in which language the original text (OT) field will be shown.

TED manual soon to be available!

A long-awaited user manual exclusively devoted to TED will soon be distributed to all registered users. The manual, although initially available in the English language, will later be available in all nine official languages of the EU. It contains background information on public procurement, search tips and recommendations,

explanations of the structure of the database and much more besides. The manual will be distributed free-of-charge. Further details will be announced in the next issue of ECHO Facts for Users.
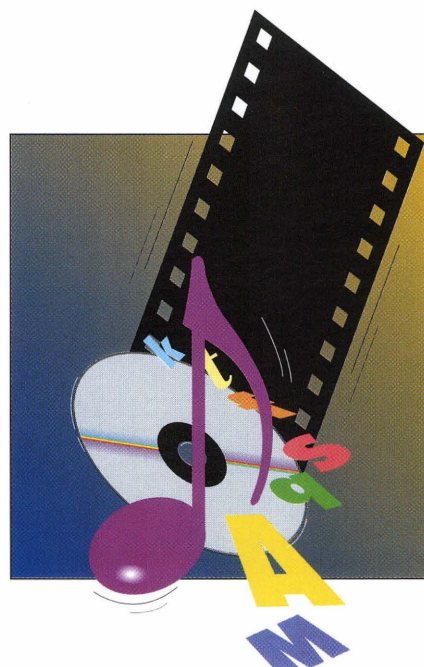
Controlled Procurement Vocabulary (CPV)

Due to replace the current coding system used in TED, the CPV looks set to appear in the database during the autumn of 1994.

CPV will allow users to further refine their searches since the codes have been specifically developed for public procurement data. The codes are far more precisely indexed but parallel indexing of the database codes will continue to the end of 1994 so that users are able to familiarise themselves with the new system.

A special information sheet regarding the codes will be mailed to all TED users and further information can be obtained from the ECHO help desk.

Update on exploratory actions in multimedia publishing

A Call for proposals for exploratory actions in multimedia publishing was published in the Official Journal of 15.3.1994, with a closing date of 15.6.1994 (see also ECHO Facts for Users, issue 2/94 page 7). This action by DG XIII/E is part of its preparation

for RTD activity in the area of "information engineering" within the Fourth Framework Programme. The Call invited proposals for feasibility projects aimed at improving the usability of information through better methods for the design, creation, dissemination and access to integrated multimedia information services. Projects will be supported that test the feasibility of pilot applications built around identified user requirements and will address research objectives in the areas of electronic publishing, information dissemination and information retrieval.

A total of more than 400 proposals were received from all European Union and European Economic Area countries. More than 1 600 participant companies were represented, including strong involvement by large European companies as well as many SMEs. The evaluation process by 22 independent evaluators (from most EU Member States and two EEA countries) took place during the second half of June. Twenty-two projects (plus three reserve) have been selected, in which the partnership mix is broad and represents the majority of Member States plus Austria, Sweden and Norway. A Commission decision on these projects is expected in September and they will run for a 6-month period from October 1994 to April 1995.

The proposals covered a wide range of issues applicable to the various areas to be addressed by future "information engineering" activities within the Fourth Framework Programme. The selected projects address the following issues: 4 cover electronic newspapers and magazines; 7 cover technical service and documentation (two of which also involve GIS and corporate memory); 7 cover asset trading (two of which also involve multimedia catalogues); 2 cover STM (scientific, technical and medical) publishing; and 2 cover multimedia catalogues.

Other preparatory activities for "information engineering" include the awarding of a contract for a feasibility study on a European network of research centres supporting media-related activities. A Call for tenders was also published in the Official Journal on 8.6.1994 for studies on "information engineering" (identifying the influential technologies and their impact) and "corporate publishing".

For further information please contact:

Bernard Smith, DG XIII/E
Tel.: +352 4301 34195
Fax: +352 4301 32847.

EUROLIB-PER – the library database

The EUROLIB-PER database, produced by the Library of the European University Institute in Fiesole (Florence), has been available to ECHO users since January of last year. The database contains about 9 000 titles and 15 000 periodical locations all dealing with the theme of European integration.

The database works on the basis of an inter-library loan system, with members of the EUROLIB-PER group being able to locate and order periodicals required by their library from the other members. All member libraries are from the European institutions and a list of the members can be obtained from the ECHO help desk and also via an on-line INFO file.

The aim of the database is to show how such an inter-library loan system can operate and it is hoped that the experiences gained from the management of such a database will benefit other libraries wishing to establish the same system. ECHO users may access the database either through their personal password or via the public password "ECHO". However, only members of the EUROLIB – European Community and Associated Library Cooperative Group – are able to order photocopies of the articles in which they are interested using a very simple on-line ordering procedure.

The periodicals listed come from the catalogues of the 14 member libraries which have provided data which are both formatted and in their original form (i.e. magnetic or paper). After the data have been converted into a format derived from CCF all documents which have been issued with an ISSN (International Serial Standard Number) are checked on the ISDS database (from the Centre in Paris which attributes the ISSN) and the corresponding bibliographic notices are loaded into EUROLIB-PER. All periodicals which do not have an ISSN are standardised by the EUROLIB-PER Centre in Florence before being loaded onto the database.

Information may be retrieved from the database using the CCL (Common Command Language). INFO files relating to the database are on hand during on-line searching which include information on the database structure, search types and commands which may be used and also the opening hours and location of the member libraries.

Further information on the database itself may be obtained from ECHO. However, for detailed information on the content and structure, please contact:

Tommasso Giordano / Marisa Santarsiero
European University Institute – The Library
Via dei Roccettini, 9
I-50016 San Domenico di Fiesole

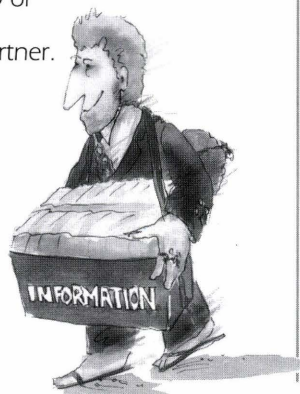Tel.: +39-55-4685-393
+39-55-4685-618
Fax: +39-55-4685-283.

Brokersguide in print

Brokersguide is a part of the I'M Guide database and lists information such as contact details and descriptions of the subject areas covered by information brokers: individuals or organisations who carry out on-line searches on behalf of their clients.

During the months of May and June 1994, all brokers listed in the database were contacted and were asked to check their data. All changes and updates were made accordingly both to the on-line and to the printed version of Brokersguide. To this end, ECHO is pleased to announce that a new edition of the printed version of Brokersguide is available from the beginning of September 1994. Annexed to the new printed version will be the "Code of Practice for Information Brokers", a joint publication between the EIIA (European Information Industry Association), EUSIDIC (the European Association of Information Services) and EIRENE (the European Information Researchers Network). The printed version of Brokersguide will be distributed free-of-charge by ECHO and by the National Awareness Partners.

If you would like to obtain a copy of Brokersguide, please do not hesitate to contact ECHO or your National Awareness Partner.

New Poolkey for DG13

Readers of the former XIII Magazine will certainly already be aware that it has changed its name to I&T Magazine. Therefore, it seems only fitting that the on-line version of the above-mentioned publication should do the same.

The new poolkey for XIII magazine (formerly DG13) will change to **ITMA**.

Regular users of this database will also be pleased to know that a menu version will soon be available, allowing searches to be carried out in full text in:

- I&T Magazine: Users will be able to search by selecting keywords, authors, European programmes, publication dates and specific issue numbers. Users will also be able to display the full text of the documents in their original language (i.e. English, French, German, Italian or Spanish).

- News Review (available in English only): Users will be able to search by selecting keywords, authors, European programmes, publication dates, issue numbers and chapter headings.

The on-line database is available to all registered ECHO users and is also accessible via the "rolling" (temporary) password and the public password "ECHO".

IMPACT Information Day in Paris addresses White Paper Issues

Palais des Congrès, Paris, 30 May 1994

An Information Day organised by the European Commission took place in the afternoon of 30 May 1994, immediately preceding the IDT 94 Conference and Exhibition (Marchés et Industries de l'Information) in Paris. The purpose of this Day was to inform interested market actors about developments taking place at European Union level in relation to the Information Market. Over 450 delegates from European countries attended.

Information content: A critical issue for Europe

The White Paper of President Delors on "Growth, Competitiveness and

Employment " addresses topics of direct relevance to the information market and the information industry. The issue of information content, which is of vital importance for European competitiveness, is featured in several chapters, in particular those dealing with Trans-European Networks, the Information Society and the Audiovisual Sector.

Moving towards an information society

The programme included presentations related to the development of the "information society " in Europe. Speakers addressed current trends and issues relating to the global information market, the strategic orientation for the information market in Europe, and "information engineering ", a new initiative within the Fourth Framework Programme of research and technological development.

Airing their views

In addition, a panel of industry contractors involved in shared-cost projects in the area of interactive multimedia (IMM) and geographical information systems (GIS) discussed their experiences of working with other European partners and with the Commission in the framework of the IMPACT (Information Market Policy Actions) programme.

Projects represented by the speakers included:

- FLANDERS, Genesis of European Art: The Flemish contribution. On CD-ROM XA, this multimedia database on Flemish art and its influence in XIVth-XVIIth century Europe brings together works of art from the main European museums.

- MMAD, a multimedia dictionary of modern and contemporary art on CD-ROM and CD-ROM XA, with more than 2 500 entries covering artists, movements, museums, galleries and collections from the beginning of this century.

- ENVIDUCATION, a geographical information system for the education market, providing easily accessed and easily perceived environmental and geographical data from public domain databases such as GRID (Global Resource Information Database) run by the United Nations.

- MAGIS, a map supported area information service based on GIS, enabling the primary actors in the real estate sector (agents, lawyers,

banks, private citizens, etc.) to obtain visual information about properties and buildings based on maps, plans and pictures on a workstation screen.

These projects were also demonstrated at the exhibition throughout the IDT event.

Getting people together: IMPACT Contact Forum

Organised as a satellite event, an IMPACT Contact Forum took place in the afternoon of 31 May. This Forum of pre-arranged meetings offered more than 240 actors in the electronic information market throughout Europe an opportunity to meet with interested partners for possible joint activities.

Available information

Those interested in obtaining a copy of the proceedings of IMPACT Information Day or further information about the IMPACT programme should contact the following address:

IMPACT Central Office
European Commission, DG XIII/E
L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel: +352 3498 1222
Fax: +352 4301 32847.

IMPACT action aims at better information for business and industry

A call for proposals is to be published on 15 September 1994 which the IMPACT programme expects will lead to the development of improved electronic information services for trade and industry, and in particular for small

businesses. This action follows a preliminary call for declarations of intent published last year, which resulted in over 450 project ideas being received from all the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA). 65% of the responses target industrial or business information. They help to confirm that the supply of strategic, financial, market, supplier and other information in this area can be improved and that such information is a key resource for firms that mean to stay competitive in today's rapidly changing environment.
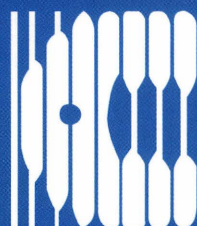
The production of high-quality information services stretching across national boundaries is nevertheless an operation of high risk. For this reason, the Commission has decided to call for proposals for a limited number of pilot information services that will exert a significant impact on the growth of the market for such services. The call is in line with the recommendations of the Bangemann report on Europe and the Global Information Society considered by the European Council on 24-25 June 1994.

This action falls within the scope of the IMPACT Action Line "Supporting strategic information initiatives". It follows two previous calls for proposals that concentrated on the use of the techniques of interactive multimedia and geographical information systems to facilitate the production and dissemination of information and make its access more attractive and efficient. The new call focuses on the information content itself. The information needed by enterprises must be reliable, up-to-date and complete. This implies the use of data networks connecting information holders, distributors and end-users.

The information services sought should ultimately target the entire European Economic Area, which is henceforth to be considered the home market for all European businesses. The action particularly emphasises the information needs of small companies, recognising the critical role they are expected to play in producing the awaited growth in the European economy.

Contact:
IMPACT Central Office
European Commission,
DG XIII/E
L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel: +352 3498 1222
Fax: +352 4301 32847.

CORDIS

CCL Wizard or Whiz-Kid?

There are those among us who might consider that searching databases with retrieval languages like CCL is a bit of a hit-and-miss affair, or even something of a black art. There may be an element of truth in this, but if so we should look at the user, not to see if he is searching with a crystal ball rather than a keyboard, but to see if he is really using the functionality provided by the CORDIS databases.

Codes are used widely in CORDIS Databases and if they are used correctly they can enable searches to be specified very precisely. But specifying a very precise search can eliminate records that might be of value. Everyone knows this, even the wizards with their crystal balls. But we know what to do about it. We can start a search by specifying broad search parameters and then tightening them until we get a reasonable number of hits providing data covering our area of interest.

• The Whiz-Kid Way •

But there is a way of doing this with certain coded fields – you can use the $ character to truncate a string specified with the DISPLAY command.

Look at the NUTS region codes used in the CRE, ORE, and TRE fields in the RTD-Partners Database. This is a good example to use because the RTD-Partners Database is a big database, having a large number of fields and containing many records. The region codes are also detailed and extend to many pages of text. They are listed in the CORDIS Reference Manual and are available for reference on-line in info files INFO REGCODES and INFO NUTSCODES. A section of the NUTS codes is shown below.

R3 ITALIA
R31 NORD OVEST
R311 PIEMONTE
R3111 Torino
R3112 Vercelli
R3113 Novara
R3114 Cuneo
R3115 Asti
R3116 Alessandria

Looking at this list of NUTS codes we can see that ITALIA has the code R3. If we use the DISPLAY command and type

D CRE=R3$

and press Enter, we view all the code entries for Italy in the CRE field. Scrolling through the list, we see near the top that Piemonte has the code R311. Typing

D CRE=R311$

and pressing Enter displays all the Piemonte sub-region entries in the CRE field. This technique can be used at any level down to displaying an individual code.

At this stage you may be looking at these region codes as listed in your manual or the info-file and wondering why some of them are not in order. For example, the Belgian codes R52 and R53 should occur at the end of the Belgian regions, so that R511 follows R51. This does not matter for the purpose of using the DISPLAY command, it simply means that you might have to search the list carefully if you are looking for a specific region.

The same technique can be used in other coded fields such as those containing Venture Economic Industry codes. A section of the Venture codes is shown below.

2000 COMPUTER RELATED
2100 COMPUTERS
2110 Mainframe & scientific computers
2111 Mainframes
2112 Scientific computers

Venture codes are used in the RTD-Partners Databases in the LMI (Collaboration Market Interest field). We can view code entries at various levels, for example typing:

D LMI=211$

displays all entries under the subheading Mainframe & scientific computers. Other coded fields can be hierarchically displayed like this, using the $ character with the DISPLAY command.

Some codes used by CORDIS cannot be displayed in this way. ISO letter codes for countries, and the RTD-Comdocuments Database Subject Index codes are not hierarchical or grouped in any way. CORDIS Subject Index Classification codes are grouped but do not have any prefixes to indicate the group to which they belong and therefore cannot be displayed in this way.

• Useful Features for the CORDIS CD-ROM •

Several useful features have recently been added to the CORDIS CD-ROM.

• The Global Search •

One particularly convenient feature provided by the CD-ROM right from the start is the Global Search. This enables all the text fields in all the databases to be searched in one go.

Now, individual databases can be selected for inclusion in the Global Search. This allows you to search only in those databases you want to, speeding the search process.

To select or to deselect a database for the Global Search simply use the Up and Down Arrow keys to select a database and then press the space bar to select or to deselect it. When a database is selected for inclusion in the Global Search, an asterisk (*) appears in the Global Search Selection Indicator box.

• Extended Memory •

If you cannot start the CD-ROM application software because of insufficient memory, or if searches result in error messages caused by a lack of memory, you can resolve the problem by using extended memory. For this you must be using a 386 or a 486 based PC with at least 1.5 MB of RAM.

To use extended memory, start the CD-ROM application software with the /3 switch. For example, assuming that you are using the default BAT file (CORDIS.BAT) to start the application, you would normally type

CORDIS

and press Enter to start it. To start it using extended memory, type

CORDIS /3

and press Enter.

Using the CD-ROM with extended memory might result in slightly slower

operation and this feature is therefore recommended for use only if it is essential.

▪ Languages ▪

Menus, prompts and some other items are now provided in English, German and Italian. The language required can be selected using the Language option under the F8 Configuration menu. On-disk versions of the CD-ROM User Guide, and the Readme file are also provided in these languages, but the Database Guide is available in English only. Other languages will be provided as resources permit.

▪ F3 Index ▪

The F3 Display menu is now the F3 Index menu. This change has been made in view of the way in which this function operates and because there was sometimes a tendency for new users to confuse the Show and Display functions.

When hierarchically structured or multi-level codes are viewed using the View by Codes option under F3 Index menu, code headings are presented for selection. Selecting one of these code headings results in the codes under that heading being presented for selection.

Some codes consist of text without any code. The CORDIS Subject Index Classification codes are an example of this. Using the View by Codes option to display these codes causes text, but no codes, to appear. Initially the classification headings appear. Selecting one of these headings displays the classifications under that heading. Although it works logically, it can be a bit confusing if you expect codes to appear.

▪ F1 Help ▪

Access to the info-files under the F1 Help menu has been rationalised. They are provided in a more logical structure.

▪ Searching Coded fields in the RTD-Contacts Database ▪

Because of a lack of space in the last issue, some information about the RTD-Contacts Database coded fields was truncated.

All the coded fields in this database work in the following way.

The DISPLAY command operates on the code, but it displays a list showing both the codes and the text expansions.

With the FIND command you can search for a code using a direct search, or you can search for a text expansion using a free-text search.

For example, the direct search

FIND CAT=ENC

searches the Category field for the code ENC.

The free-text search

FIND VALUE/CAT

searches the Category field for the text VALUE.

Coded fields that work like this in the RTD-Contacts Database are the Category (CAT), Country (CNY), Region (REG), and Subject Index Classification (SIC) fields.

▪ Changes to the database structure ▪

In order to improve the quality and ease of use of the CORDIS service, we are currently implementing a number of changes to the databases. Many of these are in direct response to users' comments received through the CORDIS help desk.

The changes are being phased in and the first major group of changes was made in June, followed by some minor changes in late August, with further changes due in November.

The most significant changes are:

▪ The phasing in of a Record Control Number (RCN) for every database, where this does not already exist.

▪ The harmonisation of Field Names: for example, Programme Acronym is now called PGA in all databases, Project Acronym is called PJA, the generic Acronym is called ACR.

▪ Improved readability of codes: for example, a list of country codes will now appear with the full country names and it will no longer be necessary to look up the codes in a separate INFO File.

▪ Removal of some redundant fields: Redundant fields are those which are rarely used. Often it has not been possible or relevant to populate these fields, some of which were inherited with older databases and were designed for other purposes before becoming part of CORDIS.

▪ Addition of full address information for Project Partners to replace the PAR (Partners) field in RTD-Projects. This change is planned for November.

Full details of the changes can be found in the INFO file, INFO CHANGES. To view this file, type INFO CHANGES at the CCL prompt.

Further information on all aspects of this article can be obtained from: ECHO/CORDIS Customer Service B.P. 2373 L-1023 Luxembourg

E-mail: CORDIS-HELPDESK @ DCFILX.DAS.NET

X400 C=DE;ADND=DBP;PRMD=GEONET;S= CORDIS-HELPDESK.

CORDIS

I am interested in receiving information on

CORDIS ON-LINE DATABASES ☐　　　CORDIS DATABASES ON CD-ROM ☐

Name ....

Organisation/Company ....

Address ....

City ....

Country...
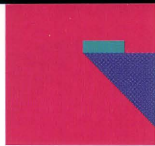
Are you an ECHO user? If so, please provide your User Reg. No. 000 ☐☐☐☐☐

ECHO/CORDIS Customer Service, B.P. 2373, L-1023 Luxembourg.
CORDIS-L fax (+352) 34 98 1248

VALUE – Enlargement of the Value Relay Centre Network to EEA countries

The VALUE Relay Centre network of pro-active advisory centres, whose mission it is to bring the Community's RTD activities closer to its clients, will soon be enlarged. The number of VALUE Relay Centres is set to rise from 27 to 32 following the inclusion of five new Centres in Austria, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland.

The scientific authorities within the above-mentioned countries have indicated those organisations considered as being the most suitable for operating as VALUE Relay Centres. The choice received a favourable opinion from the VALUE II Management Committee at its last meeting. The selection process is now entering its final phase, i.e. Commission approval and the start of activites during the third semester of 1994.

The enlargement of the VALUE Relay Centre Network to countries where an important number of companies are already participating in specific EU RTD programmes can be seen as another step towards VALUE's aim of ensuring that EU research is used effectively to render European organisations more competitive.

Names, addresses, telecommunication and other details of all the VALUE Relay Centres can be found on CORDIS in the RTD-Contacts database using both the menu and the CCL (Common Command Language). When using the CCL, the list can be obtained by typing the following commands:

BASE CONT

F CAT=ENC-VRC

Calendar of Events

A considerable number of events are being organised all around Europe by the Network of VALUE Relay Centres. Until the end of this year some of the most important events programmed are:

BELGIUM:

▪ Meeting of all VALUE Relay Centres with the specific programmes – Brussels, 21-23 September 1994, organised by the VALUE II and the BRITE/EURAM programmes.
▪ European Workshop on Chemical

Sensors – Mol, 8-9 December 1994, organised by the Flemish VRC.

FRANCE:

▪ Presentation of RTD results of the Measurement & Testing programme – Paris, 14-15 November 1994, organised by ARIST.

GERMANY:

▪ European Innovation Convention – Stuttgart, 11-12 October 1994, organised by the Southern German VRC, Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, in collaboration with the Association for International Economic Cooperation of Baden-Württemberg.

GREECE:

▪ Technology Transfer Day in the IT sector – presentation of ESPRIT results – Thessaloniki, 3 October 1994, organised by the Hellenic VRC.

IRELAND:

▪ Technology Transfer Day on biomedical research – Dublin, 29 September 1994, organised by the Irish VRC, Forbairt.

NETHERLANDS:

▪ Technology Transfer Day on Surface Treatment – Utrecht, 2-3 November 1994, organised by the Dutch VRC.

PORTUGAL:

▪ Technology Transfer Day on CIM Technologies – Lisbon, 26 October 1994, organised by the Portuguese VRC.

UNITED KINGDOM:

▪ Technology Transfer Day on Textiles – Galashiels, 23 September 1994, organised by the Scottish VRC.

DENMARK:

▪ Information Day on Industrial Technologies – Copenhagen, 22 September 1994, organised by the Danish VRC.

LUXEMBOURG:

▪ Technology Transfer Day on Metallurgy Production Process – Sarrebruck, 9 November 1994, organised by the Luxemburgish VRC.

These events are a sub-set of the Calendar of Events of the VALUE Relay Centre network. The complete calendar is available on ECHO using the command: INFO VRC-EVENTS. For

details on any aspect of this article please contact:

Mrs M. Sardo, VALUE Relay Service, Tel.: +352-4301-34008, Fax: +352-4301-34009.

Stand DG III – DG XIII "Sources d'Europe" – Paris

Au terme d'un accord conclu entre la Commission européenne et le Gouvernement Français, un Centre d'information sur l'Europe de 4 000 m² a été inauguré le 18 mars dernier au Socle de l'Arche de la Défense, à Paris. Dénommé "Sources d'Europe", il devrait satisfaire plus de 150 000 demandes d'information par an.

En présence d'environ 1 000 personnes dont plus de 100 journalistes, le Ministre français délégué aux Affaires Européennes, M. Alain Lamassource, et le Commissaire européen chargé de la Politique de Transparence, de Communication et d'Information, M. João de Deus Pinheiro, ont officiellement inauguré ce qui a été qualifié par la presse comme "le premier grand centre d'information sur l'Union Européenne ".

Sources d'Europe offre au grand public un ensemble de services tels que médiathèque, salle d'actualité, librairie, ... La DG III et la DG XIII y disposent d'un stand commun permanent ayant pour but de dispenser informations et conseils sur les thèmes se rapportant à la politique industrielle européenne, aux technologies de l'information et des communications. Il s'adresse à la fois au grand public et au public spécialisé.

Une documentation spécifique et une sélection de programmes vidéos sont présentées aux visiteurs.

Le stand commun DG III/DG XIII a également une fonction d'animation et de stimulation auprès du public spécialisé; des actions d'information et de communication – tels que colloques, séminaires, tables rondes, déjeuners-débat, présentations de démonstrations développées dans le cadre de programmes communautaires de recherche et développement, réunions d'expertise, etc. – seront organisées dans les mois prochains.

Depuis le 15 juin, une borne de démonstration et de consultation de la

base de données CORDIS est disponible au public sur le stand.

Le stand commun DG III/DG XIII est ouvert au public du lundi au vendredi, de 10h a 18h (entrée libre).

Pour tout renseignement, s'adresser à:

M. Philippe Portalier
Espace Industrie, Technologies de l'Information et des Télécommunications
"Sources d'Europe "
Le Socle de la Grande Arche
Cédex 61
F-92054 Paris la Défense

Tél.: +33-1-41-25-12-74
Fax: +33-1-41-25-12-30

ou

Mme Fabrizia de Rosa
DG XIII - 7
Av. de Beaulieu 24 (BU 24 -1/37)
B-1160 Bruxelles

Tél.: +32-2-295-30-28
Fax: +32-2-296-90-37.

Available in all EU languages.......

The ECHO help desk has noted more and more enquiries regarding the linguistic possibilities offered by the ECHO services.

Language selection when connecting to ECHO

The language chosen when logging on to ECHO determines:

- the language in which the ECHO main menu appears
- the language in which the information (INFO) files are displayed
- the language in which the error messages are displayed.

The language chosen when logging on to ECHO does not determine:

- the language in which the CCL version of a database appears
- the language in which the menu version of a database appears.

The ECHO main menu is available in all EU languages. As soon as an alteration is made to the ECHO main menu it is implemented in all language versions. However, users should note that not all of the ECHO services are translated

into all EU languages. Therefore, languages may change during a session, which may be due to any one of the following factors:

- the database chosen does not exist in all EU languages
- the information files may be temporarily unavailable in the language of your choice (therefore the English language version will be displayed automatically)
- the menu version of the database chosen is not available in all EU languages.

The following databases are available in the English language only:

- IMPACT Information Service
- I'M Forum
- Unesbib
- All CORDIS databases
- Eureka
- Emire.

For further information, please contact ECHO, or consult your user manual.

On-line registration

As of 1 September 1994, non-registered ECHO users will soon be able to register for the use of ECHO via a newly implemented on-line registration form. The use of the menu driven on-line user agreement form is optional and the paper version is still valid. Further information can be obtained from the ECHO help desk.

PLEASE NOTE:
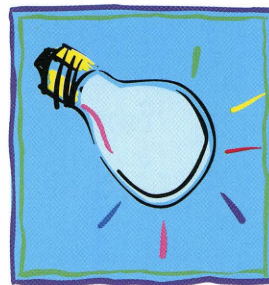
The ECHO welcoming prompt is currently:

THIS IS ECHO;PLEASE ENTER YOUR CODE

This is due to be altered and, as of 1 October 1994, the new welcoming prompt will be:

THIS IS ECHO;PLEASE ENTER THE PUBLIC CODE ECHO OR YOUR PERSONAL CODE

The changes have been kept to an absolute minimum so that users logging on to ECHO using a script file should not have too many problems with the new promt. If you have any queries, please let us know!

ECHO hosts new IDEA database

In the second half of 1994 a new database will be launched by Eur-OP (Office for Official Publications) and hosted experimentally on ECHO (European Commission Host Organisation). IDEA (Interinstitutional Directory of European Administrations) contains the directories of the following European institutions: European Investment Bank, Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, European Commission, European Parliament, Council of the European Union, Economic and Social Committee. When new EU institutions are added at a later stage, these will also be included.

Information provided will include name and title, institution and function, languages spoken and contact details. Additional information on Members of the European Parliament will cover the date and place of birth, region represented and date of nomination, supplemented by a brief biography. The database will be accessed by menu and content will be available in all official languages of the Eropean Union.

The database is available free-of-charge until the end of 1994. As of January 1995 the cost of accessing the database will be ECU 30 per connect hour.

This new interinstitutional database will contribute considerably towards improving the transparency of the work of the EU, as it will enable users to locate the official they need in order to obtain information on a particular area of European policy. It is expected to be particularly popular with interest groups, consultants, press agencies and journalists.
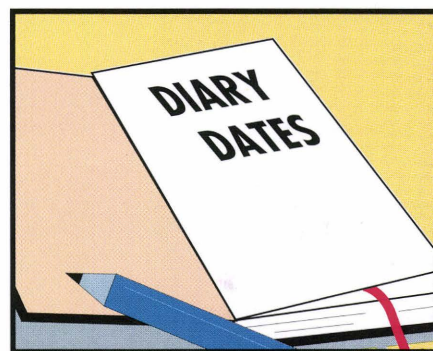
Contact:
ECHO
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg.

Tel.: +325-34981-200
Fax: +352-34981-234.

Free-phone update

Country	ECHO help desk	IMPACT Central Office
Belgium	0800 18 456	0800 18 437
Denmark	800 10 756	800 10 737
Finland	9 800 13521	9 800 13522
France	05 906 956	05 906 937
Germany	0130 823 456	0130 823 337
Ireland	1800 555 256	1800 555 237
Italy	1678 79446	1678 79476
Luxembourg	0800 3456	0800 3337
Netherlands	060 223 356	060 223 137
Norway	800 11 500	800 11 502
Portugal	0505 52 002	0505 52 003
Sweden	020 795 838	020 795 839
United Kingdom	0800 899 256	0800 899 237.

You will notice that new free-phone numbers have been made available for Finland, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Sweden.

I would like to order the following videos:

☐ ECHO short (without CCL)   ☐ TED

☐ ECHO long (with CCL)   (cost price 15 Ecu)

Language: ☐ English   format:
             ☐ French   ☐ VHS
             ☐ German
             ☐ Italian
             ☐ Spanish

I would also like to receive the new ECHO Manual:
(cost price 10 Ecu)

             ☐ English   ☐ German
             ☐ French   ☐ Spanish

I would in addition like to order the CCL training diskette, format: 5 1/4"☐   3 1/2" ☐
(cost price 15 Ecu)

             ☐ ....(Lang.)

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Organisation   ....

Street   ....

City   ....

Country   ....

Payment must be made on receipt of an invoice from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. Please return completed coupon to:
ECHO Customer Service P.O. Box 2373 L-1023 Luxembourg

3/94

DIARY DATES

ECHO will be represented at the following exhibitions during the remainder of 1994:

Moscow	East/West on-line information meeting 28/09-02/10/94	
Frankfurt	Book Fair 05-10/10/94	
Gijon	Documat '94 06-08/10/94	
Milan	SMAU 13-18/10/94	
London	IOLIM '94 06-08/12/94	

ECHO