

## New menu-driven version of Dianeguide!!

ECHO is delighted to announce the availability of a new 'menu-driven' adaptation of the Dianeguide from 27th March onwards!

The first menu-driven version will be offered in English only, however other language versions are in preparation and will be announced in due course. Now even people that are not familiar with the Common Command Language have the opportunity of retrieving information from this most valuable database!

For further information please contact the ECHO Help Desk on +352 48 80 41 or use the public password DIANEM.

## First ECHO user meeting to be held in Frankfurt!

ECHO is organising its first ever 'User Meeting' at the INFOBASE exhibition to be held in Frankfurt on the 9th May 1989!

The User meeting will be open both to regular Echo users and friends of the European Commission Host Organisation. It will give information on ECHO's future plans and projects i.e. voice in output and the intelligent interface to the DIANEGUIDE database.

The meeting is scheduled to be held between 11h00 and 13h00 onsite at the exhibition. (Room CONSENS) If you are interested in attending and would like to receive further details concerning the agenda, please fill out the reply coupon below and return it to ECHO.



## Introducing 'TED CORNER'

ECHO is to introduce a new section to its newsletter entitled 'TED CORNER'. As the name might suggest this column will provide up to date information on the status of the TED online and telex services. The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (OPOCE), responsible for the production of the TED file will provide us with 'hot of the press' information for each edition of the Echonews!

## BIOREP

In issue no. 3/1988 of ECHONEWS information was given on the Biorep project, which aims to create a permanent inventory of biotechnological research projects conducted within the E.E.C..

The Library of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam is the body responsible for the production of the Biorep file and would like to announce the forthcoming availability of the database on the ECHO service.

It is estimated that the launch version of the database will contain information on approximately 70% of publicly

funded biotechnological research projects conducted within the Member States of the European Community i.e. + 7000 records. Descriptions will be provided of projects conducted under the BAP (Biotechnology Research Action Programme) programme, and of projects to be submitted by the Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg. Future cooperation is expected with some of the Nordic countries, namely Norway, Sweden and Finland who are already cooperating with Denmark in the NORDINFO project.

Updating of the database will take place on a regular



## TEDCORNER New tariffs for TED

Please note below the newly modified tariffs for TED which will take effect from the 1st of April 1989. From now onwards tariffs will be stated in ECU only.

### Online service:

36,- ECU per connect hour  
42,- ECU per connect hour (brokers)

### Telex service:

2,- ECU/reference (SHORT format)\*  
3,50 ECU/reference (STANDARD format)\*  
7,- ECU/reference (FULL-TEXT format)\*

\* an additional 20% is charged to brokers

## New online JUSletter

JUSletter provides quick and concise information on European legislation and judicial events, with particular emphasis on citizen's rights, and is of particular interest to those people working in the legal sector.

JUSletter records and summarizes every week the initiatives and decisions taken by the Community Institutions (Council, Commission, Court of Justice, Parliament and Economic and Social Committee), in the context of the evolution of Community law.

The selected news will focus on the following topics:

- Community institutions
- Free movement of persons
- Free movement of goods and services
- Competition
- Social security, living & working conditions
- Health protection
- Culture, Education and Vocational Training
- Environment

- Consumer protection
- Taxation and currency

**DATABASE PRODUCER:**  
Association pour la Diffusion de l'Information Juridique (ADIJ)

26 rue de la Victoire,  
B-1060 Brussels  
Tel.: +32 2 539 02 53  
Fax.: +32 2 539 00 68

**COVERAGE:** Since the 1st of November 1988. Two publications are produced weekly (approx. 100 JUSletter per year).

**USER AIDS:** Detailed information is available online with the command: INFO JARE in English and INFO JARF for French.

**COSTS:** This database is currently offered free of charge. Access is available with the following public password: JUSE.

## Maintenant en-ligne JUSletter

JUSletter présente une information concise et rapide sur l'actualité législative et judiciaire européenne, particulièrement orientée vers les droits du citoyen et destinée aux milieux juridiques.

JUSletter recense et résume chaque semaine les initiatives et décisions des institutions communautaires (Conseil, Commission, Parlement, Cour de Justice, Comité économique et social,...) et les inscrit dans l'évolution du droit européen.

Les informations repertoriées s'articulent autour de la structure suivante:

- Institutions Communautaires
- Libre circulation des personnes
- Libre circulation des produits et services
- Concurrence
- Sécurité sociale, conditions de vie et de travail
- Protection de la santé
- Culture, éducation et formation professionnelle
- Environnement
- Protection des consommateurs
- Fiscalité et monnaie

**PRODUCTEUR DE LA BASE DE DONNÉES:** Association pour la Diffusion de l'Information Juridique  
26, rue de la victoire,  
B-1060 Bruxelles  
Tél.: +32 2 5390253  
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**COUVERTURE:** A partir du 1er novembre 1988, la publication sera de deux JUSletter par semaine, soit environ 100 JUSletter par an.

**AIDES A L'UTILISATEUR:**  
L'aide est disponible en ligne avec la commande: INFO JARF

**COÛTS:** La base de données est actuellement offerte gratuitement. La JUSletter hebdomadaire peut être obtenue avec le mot de passe public suivant: JUSF.

## New ECHO Brochures

ECHO is happy to announce a new brochure containing all available databases and services.

The catalogue is available in all 9 official languages of the European Community. If you would like to have one call the help desk or leave a message in the mailbox.

## ECHO training

ECHO will be organising a series of training courses and ECHO Information days in various towns throughout Europe over the coming months. If you would like to attend one of the courses/information days listed below, please contact the ECHO Help desk for further details on how to register at the address below: ECHO Help Desk, B.P. 2373, L-1023 Luxembourg  
Tel.: +352 48 80 40  
Fax: +352 48 80 40  
Tlx: 2181 eurol lu.

### LOCATION AND DATES:

London	3rd-6th April
Stuttgart	6th April
Dublin	11th April (EDC's only)
Athens	May (date to be confirmed)
Brussels	2nd May

# QUESTION MARK

## Videotex Services – what are they?

Europeans are talking to each other more and more as communication capacity is increasing by almost 40% per year. The information services market is tripling in size almost every three years! Those directly involved in the information industry – database producers, information providers, publishers, librarians and telecommunications manufacturers already number into the millions.

The users of information include practically each and everyone of us. That is why the impact of the current information revolution will affect us all!

Electronic information systems are revolutionising our lives. The stock market as well as the money and commodity markets are now handled instantaneously on screens. Immediate access to market intelligence can open the market for new purchases or acquisitions; patent databases lead to new products; chemical data can aid the creation of new pharmaceutical products. Many types of information systems are now even consulted when one goes on holiday or even before going to a restaurant to eat.

This issues Questionmark article will outline briefly a new up and coming type of information service in Europe: VIDEOTEX.

### What is VIDEOTEX?

VIDEOTEX is a generic term for retrieving information stored centrally on a computer via a public network. It is based on an interactive information retrieval system using as terminal equipment standard television receivers suitably modified or supplemented (without

excluding the future use of other equipment e.g. microcomputers).

Videotex took a long time getting off its feet in Europe, however now development is advancing rapidly and market penetration is increasing. Videotex is a breakthrough in fast, low-cost and flexible two-way communication. It simply uses the telephone line in your home or office to bring you an enormous range of information and services. You can call up information from hundreds of different sources and see it displayed on your television or microcomputer screen and you may even communicate with other Videotex users.

### What's needed?

Videotex is a title used for an interactive data retrieval service operating through public networks and capable of displaying pages of text or pictorial material on the screens of suitably equipped television receivers or microcomputers. The basic ingredients for videotex access are as follows:

- telecommunication means
- modified television set or micro-computer
- access to a central computer(s) with databases
- suitable software to allow

both access and retrieval of information by videotex.

### 1) Telecommunication means:

Two types of telecommunication media are widely recognised and have led to the distinction of two kinds of videotex, i.e. 'broadcast' and 'interactive' videotex.



### \* Broadcast Videotex

Broadcast Videotex uses the spare capacity, which is available in any TV signal used for emitting TV-pictures. The Videotex frames (one screen-full of information) are sent out cyclically one after the other. As this spare transmission capacity is limited it causes a certain delay to the user to view a desired page, because he has to wait for 'his' page to be displayed on the screen. The average waiting time for a database containing 100 francs is approximately 25 seconds.

This technique today is mainly used for subtitling in TV.

### \* Interactive Videotex

Interactive videotex uses a normal telephone line and modem to link the user to the computer center. The user works interactively with the computer, the number of frames accessible is virtually unlimited and every request for information is immediately answered. The transmission speed used is currently 1200/75 bit/s, i.e. 1200 bit/s (120 characters/second) from the computer to the terminal and 75 bit/s (7 characters/second) from the terminal to the computer. Unlike 'Broadcast'

## Benutzertreffen bei der INFOBASE

ECHO lädt alle Besucher der Infobase zu einem Treffen aller Kunden und Freunde ein, bei dem wir sowohl über unsere Neuentwicklungen im Bereich der Menüführung als auch über weitere Projekte zur Anwendung der künstlichen Intelligenz im Rahmen von Expertensystemen und der Sprachausgabe berichten wollen.

Daneben soll dieses Nutzertreffen aber auch der Diskussion mit Ihnen über Probleme mit unserem Dienst wie auch Ihren Wünschen und Vorstellungen für neue Datenbanken dienen.

Das Treffen findet am ersten Tag der Infobase von 11.00 bis 13.00 auf dem Gelände der INFOBASE (Raum CONSENS) statt. Wir würden uns freuen, wenn Sie uns Ihre Anregungen und Wünsche mitteilen würden. Eine unverbindliche Anmeldung erleichtert uns dies die Vorbereitungen für Ihre Teilnahme an diesem kostenlosen Benutzertreffen.



### Reply Coupon....

Ich möchte gerne am Nutzertreffen von ECHO teilnehmen:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Kundennummer: \_\_\_\_\_

Firma/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Meine Fragen/Wünsche/Vorschläge an ECHO sind:

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(ctd page 3)

services, the user of an interactive Videotex service will have to buy or rent a modem (fixed amount per month) and will have to pay telephone charges (services are designed in a way that every user can reach his centre with a local charge call). In addition, a user charge ('port charge') for accessing a computer might be required.

### New ECHO brochure on Videotex....

ECHO is in the process of publishing a new brochure which will describe in detail currently existing Videotex services in Europe and how one can gain access through them to ECHO. Please inform the ECHO Help desk if you would like to obtain a copy of the above mentioned brochure which will be available to all persons interested free of charge.

(ctd page 1)

basis throughout the year in a cycle that warrants complete refreshment of all data every year.

A newsletter entitled 'BIOREP Newsletter' is issued quarterly by the database producer and can be obtained free of charge (first issued in September 1988). Mr. Lalieu (project leader)/Mr. ten Tusscher  
Joan Muyskenweg 25,  
P.O. Box 41950,  
1009 DD Amsterdam.  
The Netherlands.  
Tel.: +31 20 6686611  
Fax.: +31 20 6685079

For further information concerning the BIOREP project and subscriptions to the

Biorep newsletter, please contact:

The Library of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## Diary dates

ECHO will be represented at the following seminars and exhibitions over the coming months:

### TED PRESENTATIONS:

Dublin 08/04/89

### Exhibitions:

Maastricht 04/04/89  
IT EUROPE  
CONFERENCE

Paris 17-22/04/89  
SICOB

Gent 24/04-01/05/89  
FLANDERS  
TECHNOLOGY

Frankfurt 9-11/05/89  
INFOBASE '89

Düsseldorf 20-26/05/89  
GIFA '89

Nice 22-26/05/89  
TELECOMS NICE

Utrecht 23-25/05/89  
EUROPE  
SOFTWARE

Maastricht 19-22/06/89  
EUROPE IDENTIF  
TRADE FAIR

Paris 21-23/06/89  
IDT '89

If you want to visit us, ask for a free ticket! We shall mail it to you if any possible.



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