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Media news

Media policy in the New Europe

Strasbourg 20.9.1991: Council of Europe Media Policy Ministers are to review their strategies for the 1990s in the face of political economic and technological change when they meet in Nicosia (Cyprus) on 9 and 10 October 1991.

Ministers from the 25 Council of Europe countries plus Bulgaria, the Holy See, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia will examine how best to guarantee, in the new environment in which the media are now operating, the free flow of information and ideas from varied and independent sources which underpins the functioning of the media in pluralistic democratic societies.

The opening session of the meeting, which is being hosted by the Cypriot Government at the Nicosia International Conference Centre will be addressed by President of the Republic, George VASSILIOU and Council of Europe Secretary General, Catherine LALUMIERE, as from 09 00h on Wednesday 9 October.

In seeking ways to foster political and cultural pluralism Ministers are expected to look at policy measures to strike a proper balance between the interests and expectations of, for instance the print and electronic media, holders of copyright and neighbouring rights in material used by the media, and the public at large.

The impact on mass media policy of technical developments in the media, particularly in broadcasting, will also be discussed with special reference to ways of ensuring that particular groups, regions or countries are not left behind in the great rush to embrace the new communication technologies and with a view to meeting the public's genuine needs.

Discussions at the Conference will focus on two key themes:

- Media economics and political and cultural pluralism to be introduced by Council of Europe Mass media Steering Committee Chairman, Paul KOLLER (Switzerland) and,
- New channels and means of mass communication in Europe to be introduced by Italy's Secretary of State for Post and Telecommunications, Francesco TEMPESTINI.

Other issues which are expected to be raised when discussing future policies include media concentrations, acquisition and exercise of exclusivity rights, vulnerability of television services, new sources of media funding and the production, distribution and marketing of audio-visual works.

Media representatives may attend the opening session and the presentation of the 2 reports on 9 October (0900 - 1100 hours).

A news conference is scheduled for about 1300h on Thursday 10 October when the meeting closes.

NOTES FOR EDITORS
Practical arrangements

VENUE: International Conference Centre, NICOSIA.

PROCEEDINGS: The Ministers will meet in private but the opening Session and the presentation of the reports will be open to the Press.

PRESS ROOM: A press room with typewriters, telephones, telex and telefax will be open throughout the Conference.

ACCREDITATION:

- by returning the attached form to the Council of Europe Press Service in Strasbourg **Jack HANNING** or **Christiane DENNEMEYER**
Fax : (33) 88 41 27 89 or (33) 88 41 27 90) or to **Mrs Tamara KAROULLA**, P.I.O. (NICOSIA) Fax: (357) 2/46.79.58
- on the spot on presentation of a valid press card or a letter from the media representative's editor-in-chief and an identity document.

RADIO AND TV ASSISTANCE: Technical assistance and facilities will be provided to TV and Radio journalists by the Cyprus Broadcasting Company. Please contact: **Costas SAVVA**, CyBC: Tel: (357) 2-42.22.31; Fax: (357) 2-31.40.50.

PRESS CONFERENCES/BRIEFING: A News Conference will take place on Thursday 10 October at 1 p.m.

Details of other press conferences or briefings will be announced on the spot.

DOCUMENTS: Reports in English and French will be available on the spot or may be obtained on request to the Council of Europe as from 25 September.

ENQUIRIES: Contact **Jack HANNING** or **Christiane DENNEMEYER** before the Conference at the Council of Europe (Tél. 88 41 25 61/88 41 25 63 - Fax : 88 41 327 90 or during the Conference in Nicosia (Tél: 357/2-31.34.44, Ext, 186, Fax: 357/2 46.79.59 or **Mrs Tamara KAROULLA**, P.I.O., NICOSIA (Tel:357/2 44.79.82)

Council of Europe - Request for accreditation

Surname/First name:

Media:

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Are you:

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Press Card or identity document (the latter must be accompanied by a confirmation from the Director/Editor of the media concerned)

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