

INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

The Council took note of information provided by the Commission on :

– *The role of education and training in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe*

Commissioner REDING reported on the measures adopted by the Commission in order to integrate education and training in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. She welcomed that the “Graz process” – initiated under Austrian Presidency and under which a Task Force had been set up comprising several Member States, associated countries as well as international organisations – had been included in the Stability Pact. The Commission also reported on its intentions to further build on existing programmes, such as TEMPUS and Youth, as well as develop more specific initiatives.

– *The Commission report on implementation of the Resolution of 6 May 1996 on educational multimedia software in education and training*

The Commissioner informed the Council that this report would be available shortly. She drew attention to the rapid developments as well as the challenges in this area, and indicated that the Commission was preparing an action plan concerning education and new technologies.

– *The second progress report on indicators and benchmarks of quality of school education*

This initiative builds on a meeting of EU Education Ministers with their homologues from the acceding countries in Prague in June 1998. At this meeting, a Working Committee was set up with the objective of identifying key indicators and benchmarks to assist national evaluation of systems in the area of school standards.