

The European electronic information services market will see its turnover grow from 1 000 million ECU today to 10 000 million ECU in 10 years — an annual growth rate of 20 to 30 %.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ECHO direct call . . . p 3
- Eusidic user report . . p 5
- Telecoms Green Paper p 6
- Screens and your
health p 8

Information Market Inventory

When Robert Schuman became Minister of Finance of France in 1946, the country was in a parlous state. One of his first actions was to call for an Inventory of the state of the economy.

Without all the facts and a deep analysis of the situation it is difficult to see how a situation can be improved.

The Schuman Inventory became a comprehensive gauge of the financial state of the nation and an indispensable instrument for action by public servants. Schuman's proposal for the creation of a European Community founded initially on coal and steel was a bold initiative. It was also based on a careful analysis of the economic dangers of closed national markets and consequent political upheavals.

In suggesting that the European Community have reliable macro-economic data on the state of the European information market, the European Commission is now taking a valuable first step in regulating and encouraging a single European market. The European information market Observatory charged with this task should also provide a critical sounding board to move the industry in a direction which will ensure its long term financial vitality.

Info services market by 1992

Commission launches information services action plan

The establishment of a European internal information services market by 1992 is one of four goals announced in a proposed action plan that the Commission sent on 22 July to Council for decision. Announcing the proposal, Commission Vice President Karl-Heinz Narjes said that a major effort was needed to help Europe catch up with its international competitors, USA and Japan. In Europe only 30 % of databases were operated by the private sector. Europeans needed both better access to information and better information security.

The proposed action plan (1) is the fruit of extensive studies and wide spread consultations with Senior Officials of Member States, Information Service Providers and Information Service Users (see IM 47 and 48).

The three other goals of the proposed plan involve:

- the stimulation and reinforcement of the competitive capability of European information service suppliers
- the promotion of the use of advanced information services in the Community
- and the reinforcement of joint efforts to achieve the internal and external cohesion of the Community with respect to information services.

The task is not an easy one. Problems are complex and in-

continued on page 2



Vice-President of the Commission Karl-Heinz Narjes calls for a single European information market.

Commission calls for ideas for new info services

A small number of large scale pilot or demonstration projects could provide the necessary break through in quality, performance and easy use of advanced information systems to demonstrate the potential of a single European information market.

The European Commission (DG XIII) is therefore calling for declarations of interest from firms, information providers or associations with the aim of creating new services for the European professional working environment. Close cooperation between partners with similar interests will be encouraged. (1)

Some 10 to 20 million ECU is expected to be made available

to support the development of these projects.

Following intensive discussions with three groups composed respectively of national officials, information service providers and users, key aspects of the demonstration projects have been defined. They should involve large projects with a big impact on a specific market group. The projects should answer the needs of widely-based potential user groups and demonstrate commercial viability using existing infrastructures. Easy to use systems, with a multinational, multilingual

continued on page 2

ECHO

Ihr Sprungbrett in den
Informationsmarkt — Seite 12

Un Plan d'Action pour le développement d'un marché des services d'information

La Commission vient de proposer un plan d'action ayant pour but de stimuler le développement d'un marché européen des services d'information (1). Ce plan est le résultat d'une série d'études et de consultations menées avec les fournisseurs et utilisateurs de services d'information ainsi qu'avec les représentants des administrations nationales, à la suite de l'adoption en novembre 1985 d'un programme de travail pour la création d'un marché commun de l'information. La Commission a défini quatre objectifs principaux qu'elle considère comme une partie intégrante de l'effort général pour la construction du marché européen:

- mettre en place un marché intérieur des services d'information,

- stimuler et renforcer la capacité d'offre compétitive des fournisseurs européens,
- promouvoir l'utilisation de nouveaux services avancés d'information dans la Communauté,
- renforcer la solidarité et la cohésion interne et externe de la Communauté en matière de services d'information.

Pour progresser avec la flexibilité nécessaire, la Commission a défini un plan d'action à mettre en oeuvre en deux étapes, la première, d'une durée de deux ans, constitue une phase de lancement, avec un budget de 15 millions d'Ecus pour l'année 1989 et de 20 millions d'Ecus pour l'année 1990. Elle permettra

le développement d'un certain nombre de grands projets pilotes avec la participation du secteur privé, ainsi que certaines initiatives pour fournir des données économiques sur ce marché et éliminer les entraves techniques, réglementaires et juridiques à la libre circulation de l'information.

La Commission procédera à une évaluation des résultats obtenus au cours de la phase de lancement afin de présenter au Conseil des propositions spécifiques pour la poursuite des différents éléments du plan d'action.

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(1) COM(87) 360 final, document de la Commission

Kommission beginnt neues Fachinformationsprogramm

Der Aufbau eines Marktes für europäische Informationsdienste ist eines von vier Zielen, die die Kommission in einem Entwurf eines Aktionsplanes dargestellt hat, den sie am 22. Juli dem Ministerrat zur Entscheidung übermitteln hat.

Bei der Vorstellung dieses Vorschlages betonte der Kommissions-Vizepräsident Karl-Heinz Narjes, daß eine große gemeinsame Anstrengung notwendig sei, damit Europa mit seinen internationalen Wettbewerbern, USA und Japan, Schritt halten könne. In Europa würden nur 30% der Datenbanken von der Privatwirtschaft betrieben.

Der vorgeschlagene Aktionsplan (1) ist das Ergebnis ausgiebiger Studien und intensi-

ver Gespräche mit den Mitgliedern der Gruppe Höherer Beamten der Mitgliedsstaaten, mit Informationsanbietern und Nutzer angebotener Informationsdienste (vergleiche IM 47 und 48).

Die drei anderen Ziele des vorgeschlagenen Planes sind:

- Anreiz für und Stärkung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der europäischen Informationsanbieter
- Werbung für die Nutzung von Informationsdiensten hoher Qualität
- sowie die Stärkung der gemeinsamen Anstrengungen, um die interne und externe Zusammenarbeit der Gemeinschaft im Bereich der Informationsdienste zu erreichen.

(1) Dokument KOM (87) 360

SPRINT

The Commission has just published a Call for Proposals in relation to the newly adopted Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer, SPRINT (1). The Call is aimed firstly at encouraging transnational cooperation in Europe between firms, technology transfer institutions, industrial research associations and similar bodies.

A second theme is to support the "Europeanisation" of conferences and workshops on new technologies.

The Call will also enable support to be given to transnational activities in the field of Training in Innovation as well as other specific action such as the rejuvenation of mature industries, the introduction of new technologies in firms and the promotion of innovation by local authorities.

Contact: Mr Robin Miede
CEC, DG XIII-C
L-2920 Luxembourg

(1) Official Journal No C 196/2

E. P. project

The European Parliament hosted a workshop with Community journalists on 4 June to study their needs and the potential of a projected electronic information system. Called EPISTEL, European Parliament Information System by Telephone, the system would deliver to a portable computer or word processor the latest news of the Parliament whether from Brussels, Luxembourg or Strasbourg.

Action Plan

from page 1

involve legal, fiscal, economic and linguistic barriers as well as ingrained habits and traditions of competition and supply that have restricted the level and quality of service that the average European user can expect.

The Commission suggests that the action plan be implemented in two stages in order to tackle these problems with the necessary flexibility. A two year 35 million ECU preparatory phase would cost 15 million during 1989 and 20 million ECU during 1990. Results obtained would enable more specific proposals for the implementation of different components of the action plan to be presented to Council.

Priority activities during this preparatory phase include the setting up of a European information market observatory to provide intelligence about the market. The Commission would seek ways to eliminate technical, legal and administrative barriers to information flow and at the same time explore ways to improve conditions for the transmission and accessing of information services. Ways of creating a greater synergy between public and private sectors would also be tackled.

A number of pilot and demonstration projects which could stimulate the information service industry would also be launched. Among other areas for special attention would be the library sector, reinforcement of user support and the promotion of European information services, in coordination with Member States.

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(1) Commission document COM (87) 360 final

Call for ideas

from page 1

approach are deemed necessary for stimulating a Community-wide information market.

The Commission is anxious to gather by 15 October the widest possible range of potentially exploitable ideas. The idea would be to launch a call for proposals in the near future based on such early ground work.

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(1) Official Journal No C 188: 17. 7. 87.



Information Market
Marché de l'Information
Informationsmarkt
Mercado de la Información

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Fragen und Bemerkungen an:

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Telex: 2181

ECHO breaches 3000

ECHO, the European Commission Host Organisation, now has more than 3200 costumers. We announced the 2 000th customer of ECHO in the March—May issue of IM. But by the time we published, ECHO users had already reached 2 600. There is also a known number of users who access the host using published passwords, such as DIANEE or IES, or via gateways such as Telecom Gold or DIMDI.

ECHO, which must be one of the fastest growing hosts, offers the public a range of databases, many of them aimed at helping the beginner in online information services.

ECHO staff suspect that they may reach 4000 before 1988!

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177 Route d'Esch
L-1471 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 48 80 41
Telex: 21 81
Telecom Gold: 72:
MAG036



根据中华人民共和国和欧洲共同体的合作协议, 中国科学技术情报研究所(ISTIC)于今年8月邀请欧洲共同体主机组织(ECHO)来华讲学。

In the context of the Cooperation Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the European Community, ECHO, was invited to hold a series of ECHO Training Days in Beijing during the month of August. The course was hosted by the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC).

ECHO provides direct access

ECHO is now offering its costumers a direct telephone call up number to its services. Anyone with a computer or other terminal and a modem can now phone direct to Luxembourg and try out the range of databases that is on offer — FREE!

Direct dial access is not the ideal way to access databases. As it usually involves an international telephone call, it can be expensive.

But for those computer users who already have communications software and a modem, the service provides an easy way to get the feel of on-line information.

If you have this equipment, all you need to do is dial to Luxembourg (international code: 352) 43 64 28.

When the ECHO computer

asks you to logon, use one of our publicly available passwords in the language which suits you best.

DIANEE in English,
DIANED in German,
DIANEF in French,
DIANEDN in Danish,
DIANENL in Dutch,
DIANEI in Italian,
DIANESP in Spanish,
DIANEP in Portuguese.

After being accepted, type INFO ECHO to find out what's new on ECHO. Or INFO SEARCH to help you use DIANEGUIDE on other hosts in Europe.

If you have access to a packet switched network, you will find it cheaper to use ECHO's NUA: 270448112. If you want access to ECHO's other databases, drop us a line and we will send you your own free password.

DIMDI links to ECHO

Users of the major German Host, DIMDI, can now access ECHO databases directly as if they were DIMDI databases. The connection between Ger-

many and Luxembourg is made without the customer being aware of it through the Commission supported Host-Interconnection protocol.



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To: BLAISE-LINE Section, British Library
Bibliographic Services
2 Sheraton Street, London W1V 4BH

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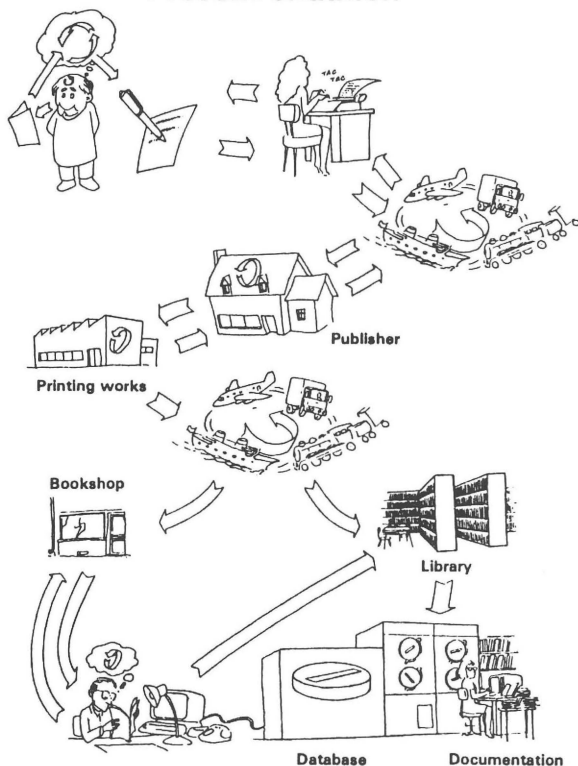
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Present situation



DOCDEL final report

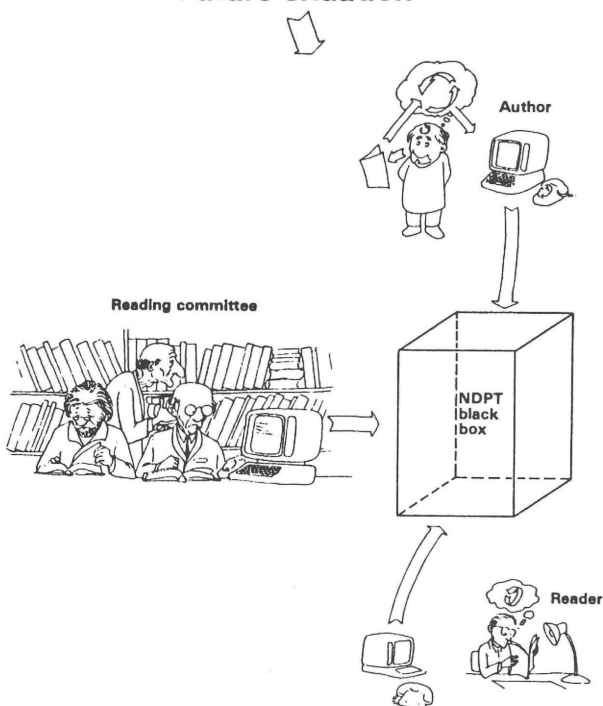
When the Commission initiated a Call to support advanced electronic document delivery and electronic publishing projects under the DOCDEL programme, it was anxious that not to create new technology systems only for technology sake. A series of user groups gave feedback on the ten projects and an evaluation of such New Data Processing Techniques (NDPT) was undertaken.

The final report on the evaluation of the DOCDEL experiment has been presented by Bureau Marcel Van Dijk.

Projects include electronic scientific publishing, Mathor, (see this page), scientific document delivery systems, the Invisible College project, the creation of electronic journals for chemistry, the Transdoc electronic document delivery project and the German patent database PATDPA. The report is available from the European Commission.

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Future situation

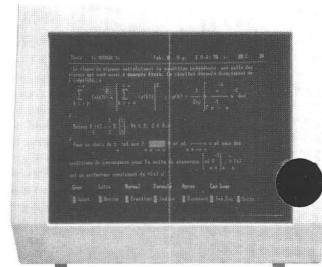


Imprimer les symboles mathématiques: Mathor

MATHOR est un logiciel qui a pour but d'aider les secrétaires techniques et les auteurs scientifiques. Ce logiciel fait partie du projet DOCDEL lequel a reçu l'appui de la CCE. MATHOR facilite la composition de documents contenant des symboles mathématiques. Son utilisation reste toutefois très simple: une série de touches spécialisées permet l'affichage directement à l'écran de tous les symboles mathématiques spéciaux comme la barre de fraction, la "racine", l'"intégrale", l'écriture en indice, etc.

La signification de chacune de ces touches est en permanence indiquée clairement au bas de l'écran.

Le logiciel contient un alphabet français, deux jeux de symboles mathématiques et



l'alphabet grec en corps normal, petit corps et en italique, ainsi que d'autres alphabets spéciaux.

L'emploi de MATHOR permet donc de réduire d'environ 50% le coût du tirage d'un livre en 1 000 exemplaires.

Contact: Novedit
Ave du Hoggar
Z I de Courtaboeuf
B P 112
F-91944 Les Ulis Cedex
Tél: + 33 1 69 07 36 88
Télex: 692321 F

Optical Disk latest

The proceedings of the Joint CEC/Euripa Intensive Workshop on CD-ROM, held in Luxembourg on 12-13 February are now available free of charge from the European Commission.

It contains an up-to-date description of the technology, new services offered, publishers' experiences in implementation and product development and current reactions as indicated by participant syndicates.

ated by participant syndicates. Tony Hendley also presents a valuable summary of optical disc technology beyond CD ROM and G Pradere from Philips gives a description of CD Interactive.

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Chinesisches Wörterbuch

凹版印刷
aoban yinshua
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GRAVURE PROCESS

版心
banxin
SATZSPIEGEL
PRINTING AREA

版本
banben
AUFLAGE
EDITION

Midasta ist ein elektronisches Wörterbuch oder eine Terminologie-Datenbank, die auch für Übersetzungen einsetzbar ist. Entwickelt von der Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation (GID), kann Midasta eingesetzt werden, um Äquivalente der Fachterminologie in drei Sprachen — Deutsch, Englisch und Chinesisch — anzubieten.

Man kann es aber auch benutzen als ein bequemes Werkzeug zur Bearbeitung und Modifikation eines Fachwörterbuches, um zu jeder Zeit neue Begriffe hinzuzufügen oder zum elektronischen Publizieren von Fachterminologie. Maschinenlesbarer Wortschatz für automatische Übersetzung der Fachliteratur ist eine weitere Nutzung für diese Datenbank-Software.

Als Gerätkonfiguration benötigt Midasta einen Personal-Computer in Verbindung mit einer Elektronischen Schreibmaschine Olympia 1011, die als Drucker dient. Dieses Gerät hat einen Zeichensatz mit chinesischen Schriftzeichen.

Kontakt: Yu Yong Yuan
GID
Herriotstrasse 5
D-6000 Frankfurt 71
Tel: + 49 69 66 87-2 86

Pica Host, pick a book!



As an extension of its library automation activities in the area of shared catalogue and interlibrary loans, Pica, Centrum voor Bibliotheekautomatisering, are now offering four databases to the public.

TACO, contains references to journal articles of general interest for public library users. **GLIN** offers grey literature of

government and scientific institutions. **AVM** relates to audiovisual material for general and educational purposes. **NBLC-VAKBIB** is a professional library on library and information science. A unique feature of this is that the source documents — multilingual books, reports and audiovisual material — can be borrowed free of charge, from the professional library.

Contact: Pica Host
P O Box 90412
NL-2509 LK The Hague
Tel: +31 70 14 04 60

GBI — klein, aber oho!

Deutschsprachige betriebliche Information war bis vor einigen Jahren nicht verfügbar. Diese Lücke erkannten die Gründer der Gesellschaft für betriebswirtschaftliche Information (GBI). Sie begannen mit der Datenbank **Bliss** (Betriebswirtschaftliche Literatursuchsystem), die inzwischen nun fast 85 000 Dokumente hat. Hierzu kamen im Laufe der Zeit **Manex** (Management-Experten-Nachweis), **Semikon** (Betriebswirtschaftliche Seminare und Konferenzen), **Prognos** (Prognosen), **Finf** (Kennzahlen und Jahresabschlüsse von Unternehmen) und **Hadoss** (Online-Version der Nachweise des Hamburger Weltwirtschaftsarchivs mit Online Ordering).

Die GBI ist aber nicht nur Datenbank-Produzent, sondern selbst auch Host. Dabei wird das einfache deutschsprachige Retrievalsystem Sudok eingesetzt, welches die GBI selbst entwickelt hat. Die Datenbanken Bliss und Manex werden auch bei den Hosts FIZ Technik und GENIOS angeboten.

Kontakt: GBI
Dr. Peter Müller-Bader
Postfach 80 07 23
D-8000 München 80
Tel: +49 89 4 48 28 04

Pergamon gateways to IRS

Onliners who logon to Pergamon Infoline to check any of its 60 databases, now have a choice of around 200 more. Gateway connection have now been made to ESA IRS in Italy as well as the recent link to BRS in the US. The 140 BRS files cover medicine and pharmacology, physical and applied sciences, the life sciences, business, education and the social sciences and humanities.

No additional password is required and Infoline customers receive just one bill, regardless of where they have searched. The gateway has been created as part of the European Host Network programme and the standardised interchange protocol received support from the European Commission.

Contact: Pergamon Infoline
12 Vandy Street
London EC2A 2DE
Tel: +44 1 377 4650

Community documents by SCAD

The Commission databank, SCAD, contains bibliographical references to principal Community Acts (including a retrospective review of their development from Commission proposal stage), resolutions and advice of the European Parliament and Community legislation published in Series L of the Official Journal. A list of keywords in French can be consulted and

references are in English and French.

Other publications and public documents issued by European institutions and selected articles from periodicals in their original languages are also available.

Contact: CEC
DG IX/E/3
JECL 1/103
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Tel: +32 235 9007

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IM 2/87

Eusidic telecoms user report 1987

Small improvement on European networks

Last year in January, Eusidic, the European Association of Information Services, provided a systematic analysis of the efficiency of the European networks. A number of users took the trouble to fill out a log of all the calls they made and a questionnaire on the quality of the services offered by telecommunications authorities. In 1986, 3 436 calls were logged.

This year, during the week 26–30 January, users have provided similar data. Some 50 % more calls were logged (5 223). Unfortunately there are some important gaps — especially FR Germany and France where user groups did not participate strongly enough. Good participation came from the Nordic countries and overall a reasonably reliable view of the state of the networks should be reflected by the figures.

The telecommunications authorities were well aware of the operation. A modest improvement in the services — of some 1.5 % — was indicated in this year's figures.

In 1986 30.7 % of calls failed; this year 29.2 % did not get through.

An analysis of the network error messages suggested that two-thirds of the problems were due to network failure; a quarter (24 %) were caused by access problems at local node; 8 % were due to problems of the host not being accessed. Only 2 % were put to "user" problems such as using the wrong NUI, NUA or password. Many users, however, do not think the network messages are totally accurate.

For a clear understanding of what the results mean, the reader should bear in mind that when a message passes from one end of Europe to another it could take several possible routes depending on the agreements between telecom authorities and the level of traffic. We are, therefore, publishing a number of tables which should give some indication of the level of service when the message leaves a national network and the chances of it arriving in another.

Table 1
Failures by country of destination average 29 %

Rank	Destination country	Success	Failure	%
1	Austria	13	0	0
2	Ireland	41	13	24.1
3	Switzerland	858	296	25.7
4	FR Germany	293	102	25.8
5	Norway	143	50	25.9
6	France	161	57	26.2
7	United States	777	309	28.4
8	United Kingdom	825	364	30.6
9	Finland	74	34	31.4
10	Sweden	101	56	35.7
11	Denmark	52	29	35.8
12	Belgium	24	14	36.8
13	Japan	34	24	41.4
14	Luxembourg	48	38	44.2
15	Netherlands	5	6	54.6

Chairman's award



Dr W L Renaud, chairman of the Committee on Information and Documentation in Science and Technology, which advises the Commission on its Specialised Information Market programme, has become an Officier in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau in recognition of his services to the Dutch and international information industries.

Table 2
Failures by countries of origin average 31.6 %

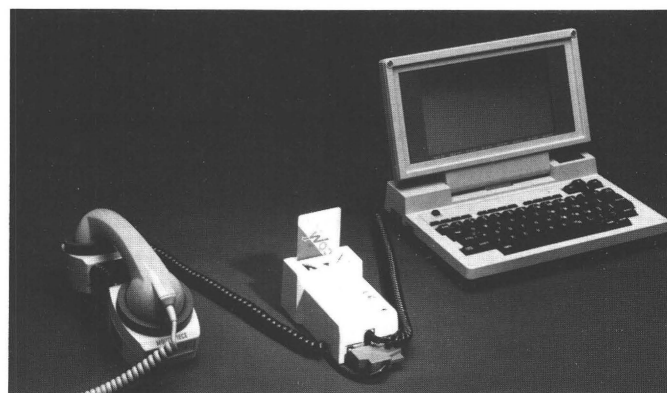
Rank	Originating Country	% failure	% 1986	rank 1986
1	Norway	17	32	5
2	Finland	19	—	—
3	Netherlands	23	13	1
4	United Kingdom	28	29	3
5	Denmark	30	24	2
6	Belgium	32	40	8
7	Sweden	35	37	7
8	Italy	43	34	6
9	France (1)	44	49	8
10	Spain	47	31	4

(1) For France there were only 82 calls registered during the week; for the other countries there were in excess of 200. Only a small number of calls were recorded for FR Germany and could not be taken as statistically significant.

Table 3
Rates of failures to target countries from all European countries

Country	Failure %	Total Calls
United Kingdom	31 %	1 189 calls
USA	28 %	1 086 calls
Italy	27 %	382 calls
France	26 %	218 calls
FR Germany	26 %	395 calls
Switzerland	26 %	1 154 calls

Smart card access to networks



A smart card innovation, Comco, enables a traveller to gain access to networks in a foreign country for which he has not registered with the telecoms authorities. By the end of this year all Community countries will be served.

The Comco smart card is a miniature computer that communicates with the ones installed by the company within the packet switched networks under agreements made with the authorities.

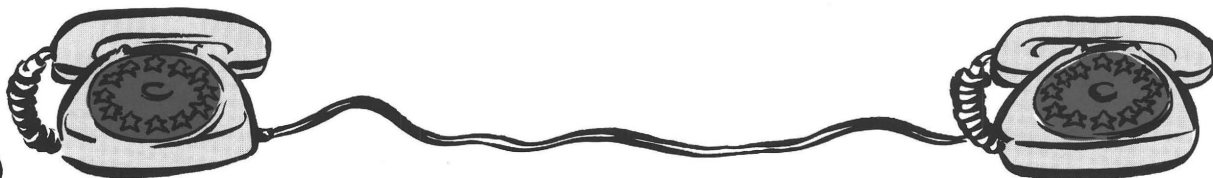
The user calls the nearest Comco access point and the smart card is placed in a read-

er between the micro and the telephone. The amount of units left on the card is displayed on the screen — much in the same way as a telephone card. The logon address of a normally used host can be stored and rung up at the touch of a button.

The smart card warns the user when it is running out of call units; a new card can be patched by post.

Contact: Comco
PO Box 235
CH-Lausanne 12
Tel: + 41 21 36 51 05
Telecom Gold: 84: TXT047

Green Paper calls for European action on telecommunications



The lack of synergy between the European telecoms authorities is causing a loss in dynamism in the European market compared with Japan or the USA, equivalent to a gap of between \$4.5 and 15 billion in telecommunications equipment purchases. This low consumption of advanced technology points to the vast unrealised potential of the European market which, with 320 million consumers, is far larger than its competitors, says a Commission Green Paper on Telecommunications (1).

As, by the end of the century, nearly two out of three jobs will depend on telecommunications, action needs to be taken now to maximise employment opportunities and boost the economy. The Commission would like reactions to its proposals by October.

The regulatory transformation of the "current web of segmented national markets" must make a major contribution to providing a single, more competitive, Community-wide market to the benefit of both European industry and the European consumer, the paper says.

The Green Paper proposes two major strands of re-regulation of the telecoms authorities.

1. Phased complete opening of the terminal equipment market to competition

In the long run, this would comprise all terminals including the subscriber's first telephone set, given the change to integration of functions and the introduction of the more powerful integrated services digital network (ISDN). Transitional solutions may need to be made for States wanting to maintain monopoly supply of conventional voice telephone.

Receive only earth stations (ROES) for satellite downlinks should be subject to type approval only.

2. Clear separation of regulatory and operational functions of telecoms authorities

Telecoms authorities cannot be both referee and player at the same time; they cannot both participate in the market and regulate the competition. The need for this separation is

confirmed by trends and debates in all Member States.

The Commission also proposes a number of new action lines. These include the reinforcement of the development of standards and specifications in the Community and the creation of a **European Telecommunications Standards Institute**.

The Commission also says that a common definition of an agreed set of conditions for **Open Network Provision (ONP)** to service providers and users is necessary for a competitive environment. Clear definitions of network termination points, **usage conditions and tariff principles** and availability of frequencies, where relevant, are required.

The networks must be opened, under fair conditions, also to providers of information services based in other Member States.

The common development of new ISDN based Europe-wide services will depend on compatibility and inter-operability. This could involve joint **Community-wide service-pro-**

vision, network planning and tariff principles. A number of new initiatives at the Community level promoting the emergence of European value-added services will be proposed, building on current efforts as the trade electronic data interchange system, TEDIS. Private initiatives will be fully mobilised where they can promote Europe-wide information services.

Common definition of a coherent European position on the development of satellite communications must be undertaken.

New action lines are also proposed in regard to the international regulatory environment (for example in GATT and with the International Telecommunications Union) and in achieving social consensus on the new opportunities arising in the job market.

The Commission would like to receive reactions to its proposals by October.

Contact: Mr. T. Schuringa,
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200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Tel: + 32 2 235 0575

(1) Commission document: COM (87) 290 final

Agreement on Framework programme

After many months of disagreement and delay, the Council arrived at a common position on the 1987-91 Research and Development Framework programme on 20 July. A concertation procedure was opened with the European Parliament. The continuation of a number of R&D programmes can now be assured and new programmes can be started.

The Framework Programme comprises a global budgetary envelope in which the priorities in research can be set. Programmes such as ESPRIT (information technology research) and RACE (broadband networks in Europe) are included in the Framework Programme. New programmes, such as DELTA on distance education, DRIVE on dedicated road and intelli-

gent vehicles in Europe and AIM, European advanced informatics in medicine, can, in accordance with the Single Act, now be passed by majority vote.

The agreement follows the line of a compromise worked out with 11 Member States and the Commission during the Belgian presidency for a budget of 6.5 billion ECUs. About 1 billion are committed to research about which decisions have already been taken. Some 4.5 billion ECUs are for new actions to be carried out until the end of 1991. A further 900 million ECUs are to be spent after 1990.

The United Kingdom insisted that the overall budget be approved in two phases: the main part immediately and 417 million later — it is hoped before the end of this year.

La Commission adopte huit programmes spécifiques

La Commission vient d'adopter une série de programmes spécifiques qui feront partie du programme-cadre de la recherche 1987-91.

1. La Phase II de **ESPRIT**: un montant de 1.6 milliards d'ECUs est prévu pour poursuivre ce programme de recherche d'une signification essentielle pour l'avenir de l'Europe.

2. Le Programme **DELTA** vise le développement de techniques d'apprentissage grâce à la technologie avancée. Ce programme devrait permettre un lien entre ESPRIT et RACE et, d'autre part, entre ESPRIT et RACE et le programme COMETT. Une somme de 20 millions d'ECUs est proposée pour cette activité nouvelle.

3. Le programme **DRIVE** concerne le problème de la sé-

curité de la circulation routière en Europe sous le double aspect de la réduction de la pollution due à la circulation routière et du développement d'un système de circulation routière moderne. Un financement de 60 millions d'ECUs est proposé pour ce programme de recherche.

4. Le programme **AIM**, Advanced Informatics and Medicine, a pour objectif de réduire les coûts entraînés par les soins de santé par le biais de l'introduction de l'informatique médicale et de la bio-informatique. Il aura une dotation de 20 millions d'ECUs.

D'autres programmes proposés concernent la **fusion** thermonucléaire, **BRITE**, la **radioprotection**, et l'accès à de **grandes installations** de recherche.

Screens and your health

Many people object to working long intensive hours at a terminal screen. After some time staring at green letters on a black screen, eyes begin to strain, colours of ordinary objects take on a purplish-red hue and back and neck muscles ache. Then nerves begin to fray.

Is it all the fault of the green screen?

A recent study undertaken on behalf of the Commission (DG XIII and DG V) found that employees in Member States have a remarkably common approach to the issues associated with the use of VDUs.

But Member States laws and regulations show a bewildering variety of ways of dealing with the health and safety implications of VDUs. Many countries have no specific legislation on new technologies

preferring to rely on general laws covering the subject. These may date back to when VDUs were a twinkle in the eyes of their inventor — some fifty years ago.

It is doubtful whether such laws can be relied on as the basis of argument by analogy to cover the needs of VDU workers today. Many of the regulations exist only at the level of policy of a (usually large) company or collective agreements with trade unions.

In several countries the results of a questionnaire indicated the need for guidelines or checklists rather than detailed legislative standards being created. A flexible model which could call on the best international practice illustrated by both corporate and trade union guidelines was recommended at the Community level.

What to do at your VDU

Should pregnant women wear special anti-radiation aprons when sitting in front of a screen? A recent book on **New information technology: human and managerial implications**, recommends that such clothing affords no benefits and should be positively avoided. One study concluded that it would take 50 years' exposure at the VDU to build up the same level of radiation as one dental X-ray. Another stated that "the body burden of radiation carried by one's bed partner exposes you to more radiation" than working all day at a terminal.

Lead rubber aprons could cause postural problems. In addition, for pregnant women they may cause excessive

pressure and heat build-up in the womb.

Do VDUs produce tingles on the skin? Electromagnetic radiation such as ultra-violet, infra-red, microwave, radio-frequency, medium low (ML) or extremely low frequency (ELF) waves are either not emitted from VDUs or in such low quantities that no negative effects can be detected.

The book by Richard J Long cites a report by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions that concludes that ergonomically designed VDUs should entail no inherent physical or mental health hazards.

It also gives a helpful summary of exercises that terminal

How countries regulate VDUs

Laws and constitutions

General provisions may be found in a country's constitution, for example, Articles 31 and 41 of the Italian Constitution. In other countries legislation dates back several years — to the 1924 Health and Safety at Work Laws in Luxembourg, the 1958 Office Premises Act in Ireland or the 1934 Hygiene and Safety Decree in Greece. Alternatively, as in the case of Denmark, the general law may be easily adapted to changing working conditions despite the absence of specific regulation of new technology.

Standards and agreements

In some countries the emphasis has been on implementing standards for the workplace

— such as the German DIN standards. There are also framework agreements such as those for government departments in Denmark or the banking sectors in France and Portugal. In Belgium the agreement is at a more general level.

Codes of Practice or guidelines

These types of regulations which include the U K Health and Safety Executive's guidelines on VDUs are less easily enforceable. They may take the form of an agreed corporate policy with a multinational company which supplements the local legal requirements. Philips and IBM issue a handbook of working practices. In the case of such multinationals the policy may be developed on a worldwide scale.

COMPARATIVE TABLE

In the comparative table we have summarised some examples.

BELGIUM

- GRPL — General Regulations for the Protection of Labour
- CCT — Convention Collective de Travail No. 39 of 13 December 1983 concerning "l'Information et la Concertation sur les conséquences Sociales de l'Introduction des nouvelles technologies"

operators could do to release muscle tensions, minimise fatigue and enhance the blood flow. Refocusing the eye on near and distant objects can help reduce eye strain. Managerial style and employee satisfaction are more important than hardware, it concludes.

Contact: Croom Helm
Burrell Row
GB-Beckenham,
Kent, BR3 1AT

- TB — Technologieakkoorden in België?
J. Huys and P. van der Hallen, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, January 1983

DENMARK

- AWE — Act respecting the working environment. No. 681, 23 December 1975
- GB — Det grafiske Branchesikkerhedsrad, Skaerm-Terminaler nr. 4, 4b and 4c 1981/1982
- RT — "Rammeaftale om tenningslinier for samarbejde ved indførelse og brug af ny teknologi i statens virksomheder og institutioner." 25 November 1982

FRANCE

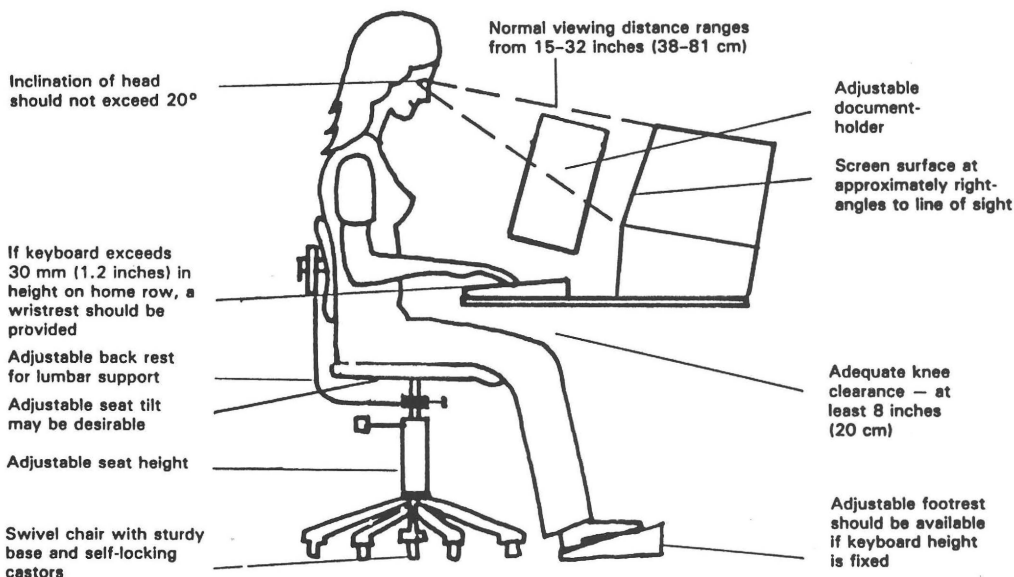
- LC — Labour Code, as last amended 28 January 1981

GERMANY

- RI — The Reich Insurance Code, 1911
- ZH/618 — Sicherheitsregeln für Bildschirm-Arbeitsplätze im Bürobereich ZH 1/618, October 1980
- DIN66234 — DIN 66 234 part 1 to 7, German standard for Display Workplaces March 1980—December 1984
- DIN4549 — DIN 4549 Voraussetzung für die zukünftige Funktionsfähigkeit, March 1985
- N.2.7 — Nr. 2.7 Verwaltungsbereichs-Berufsgenossenschaft — Bildschirmeinsatz ja! Aber mit Sinn und Verstand!, June 1985
- SP21.5 — SP21.5 Verwaltungsbereichs-Berufsgenossenschaft — Mikrofilm-Lesegeräte im Bürobereich, November 1985

GREECE

- HSD — Hygiene and Safety Decree, 1934



Ergonomically-sound posture

IRELAND

- OPA — Offices Premises Act, 1958
- No.5 — Newsletter no. 5, Department of Labour, Occupational Health Services February 1985

ITALY

- CR — La Costituzione della Repubblica italiana, art 32 and 41
- the Code Civil, art 2087

LUXEMBOURG

- H&S A — Hygiene and Safety Act and Orders, 28th August 1924

THE NETHERLANDS

- ARBO — Wet ARBO, 1980; Working Environment Act.
- WB — Het Werken met Beeldschermen, concept voorlichtingsblad, Arbeidsinspectie, 1981
- NS — Werken met beeldschermen, Nederlandse Spoorwegen, January 1983
- HBW — Handboek beter werken met beeldschermen, FNV, 1986

PORTUGAL

- RGH — Regulamento Geral de Higiene e Seguranca do Trabalho nos Estabelecimentos Comercias, de Escritorio e Servicos, January 1982 (Bill in preparation)
- CLR — Collective Labour Regulation for the Bank Sector

SPAIN

- GOS — General Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, Order to approve, 1971
- MTS — "Problematica de los Trabajadores y Usuarios de la Informatica: El Trabajo con Pantallas de Visualizacion de Datos", Proposal for Regulations sobre condiciones de trabajo con pantallas de visualizacion, February 1985, Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social Instituto Nacional de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo
- UGT — Guia Technica para el trabajo ante pantallas de datos (Directrices Sindicales), Union General de Trabajadores, 1985

UNITED KINGDOM

- HSA — Health and Safety at work Act, 1974
- HSE1 — Visual Display Units, Health and Safety Executive, 1983
- HSE2 — Working with VDU's, Health and Safety Executive, 1986
- LRD1 — VDU's Health and Jobs, Labour Research Department, 1985
- VDU workers' rights campaign leaflets
- APEX.R — New Technology: a Health and Safety Report, Apex, 1985
- APEX.G — New Technology: Health and Safety Guidelines, Apex

- ASTMS — Guide to Health Hazards of Visual Display Units, ASTMS, 1983
- BIFU — VDU Guidelines, BIFU Research, 1984
- TASS — VDU's Health and Safety Guidelines, TASS, 1985
- NALGO — Visual Display Units, a Nalگو check-list for negotiators, NALGO
- SOGAT — "VDU Guidelines", SOGAT, June 1986
- EYE — Visual Display Units and Eyestrain, recommendations for eye examinations for VDU operators, Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, 1980
- JNT — Journalists & New Technology, National Union of Journalists, 1980
- INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS
- INT TU — International Trade Union Guidelines on Visual Display Units, October 1984
- FIET1 — Health and Safety for white collar workers, Fiet Handbook No. 1, FIET 1983
- ECMA — Ergonomics Recommendations for VDU Work Places, TR22, ECMA, March 1984
- ISO — Draft Ergonomics Requirements of Visual In-

- formation Processing Systems, ISO/DP 9241/3
- PHIL — The Visual Display Terminal Workplace, a users handbook, Philips, 1983 + two appendices
- JAP — VDT Work and Occupational Health — A provisional Guideline, Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association, February 1984
- NSB — Ordinance (AFS 1985: 12) concerning Work with Visual Display Units, National Swedish Board of Occupational Safety and Health, June 1985

	General Health & Safety Legislation	Specific Law on New Information Technologies	Guidelines and Agreements on Union, Company or Trade Association level	AREAS COVERED				
				Equipment design	Environmental issues	Work Station design	Operators & Job design	Health Regulation
Belgium								
GRPL	●						●	●
CCT		●					●	●
TB			●		●		●	●
Denmark								
AWE					●		●	●
GB			●	●	●	●	●	●
RT							●	
France								
LC	●				●		●	●
Germany								
RI	●						●	●
ZH 1/618		●		●	●	●	●	●
DIN 66 234		●		●	●		●	●
N.2.7			●			●	●	
DIN 4 549			●			●	●	
SP 21.5			●	●				
Greece								
HSD	●						●	●
Ireland								
OPA	●				●	●	●	●
NO.5			●	●	●	●	●	●
Italy								
CR	●				●			
CC	●							
Luxembourg								
H&S A	●				●			
The Netherlands								
ARBO	●				●		●	●
WB			●	●	●	●	●	●
NS			●	●	●	●	●	●
HBW			●	●	●	●	●	●
Portugal								
RGH	(●)				●		●	
CLR			●		●			●
Spain								
GOS	●				●			●
MTS			●	●	●	●	●	●
UGT			●	●	●	●	●	●
United Kingdom								
HSA	●				●		●	●
HSE 1			●	●	●	●	●	●
HSE 2			●	●	●	●	●	●
LRD 1			●	●	●	●	●	●
VRC			●	●	●	●	●	●
APEX R			●	●	●	●	●	●
APEX G			●	●	●	●	●	●
ASTMS			●	●	●	●	●	●
BIFU			●	●	●	●	●	●
TASS			●	●	●	●	●	●
NALGO			●	●	●	●	●	●
SOGAT			●	●	●	●	●	●
EYE			●	●	●	●	●	●
JNT			●	●	●	●	●	●
International								
INT TU			●	●	●	●	●	●
FIET 1			●	●	●	●	●	●
ECMA			●	●	●	●	●	●
ISO	(●)		(●)	(●)	●	●	●	●
PHIL			●	●	●	●	●	●
JAB			●	●	●	●	●	●
NSB			●	●	●	●	●	●

*) is still draft

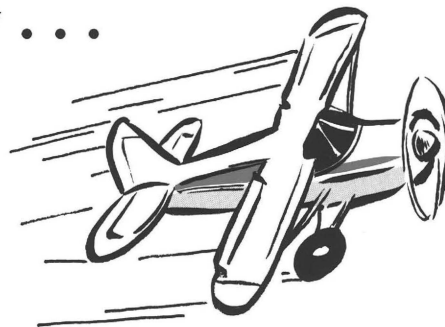
Agreement on Systran

The European Commission represented by DG XIII and Mr Jean Gachot, the owner of various Systran units collectively known as "Groupe Systran", have signed a collaborative agreement to ensure the wider exploitation of the successful computer-aided translation system, SYSTRAN.

The agreement signed on 4 August will enable the Commission to make wider and improved use of the system within the European institutions. It will also enable both parties to benefit from a broader feedback of users. Dictionaries and software developments will be shared between the two organisations.

Contact: Mr Ian Pigott
CEC, DG XIII/B
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: + 352 4301 2903

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IM readers can benefit from a special reduced price offer. For a limited time, this guide will be sold at a pre-publication price of 3 600 Belgian Francs (59 Pounds Sterling, 180 DM, 590 FF or the equivalent in other European currencies) — postage included. That's 20% off the usual price of 4 500 BF or £ 75, 225 DM or 750 FF.

Accord sur Systran

La Commission européenne représentée par DG XIII et M. Jean Gachot, propriétaire de différentes unités de développement SYSTRAN collectivement dénommés «Groupe Systran», a signé un accord de collaboration pour assurer l'exploitation plus large du système réussi de traduction assistée par ordinateur, SYSTRAN.

L'accord signé le 4 août permettra à la Commission de faire une utilisation plus large et améliorée du système au sein des institutions européennes. Il permettra également à les deux partis de profiter d'une rétroaction plus large des utilisateurs. Des dictionnaires et des développements de logiciel seront partagés entre les deux organismes.

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Competitive resource

The CICI, the British information industry grouping and the Royal Institute of International Affairs are holding their second joint conference on 5-6 November, 1987. Day one will deal with **Information as a competitive resource**; day two with **Future directions in information mar-**

kets. Speakers include Sir Raymond Appleyard and Mr Brian Oakley.

Contact: Mr Louis Turner
Royal Institute of
International Affairs
10 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LE
Tel: +44 1 930 2233
Fax: +44 1 839 3593

Developing Countries

A conference on **Computer communications for developing countries** will be held in New Delhi on 27-30 October. Hosted by the Indian Government's Department of Electronics, the conference will cover such topics as data comms infrastructure, ISDN,

satellite communications, technology transfer and socio-political issues and standards.

Contact: Dr S Ramani
Director, National Centre
for Software Technology
Gulmohar Cross Road No 9,
Juhu
Bombay - 400049, India

Machine Translation

Aslib will hold there 9th international conference on computer aided translation on 12-13 November, 1987. Evaluations of latest software packages, desk top publishing and electronic mail systems will be made. Expert speakers will assess the practicality and

user friendliness of latest machine translation systems and address the question of international cooperation.

Contact: Aslib
Information House
26-27 Boswell Street
London WC1N 3JZ
Tel.: +44 1 430 2671

Télécom 87

L'Union internationale des télécommunications (UIT) tiendra son 5e Forum mondial des télécommunications à Genève du 19 au 27 octobre.

Le thème **L'âge des communications: des réseaux et services pour la communauté**

mondiale servira de cadre aux experts en communications pour l'examen des problèmes les plus récents en matière de télécommunications.

Contact: UIT
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Genève 20
Tél: +41 22 99 51 11

EDI Italia '87

La prima conferenza italiana sull'Interambio Elettronico dei Dati (EDI), **EDI Italia '87** avrà luogo il 4 a il 5 Novembre. Sponsorizzata da Confcommercio, Confindustria, Istituto Nazionale per il Commercio con l'Estero (ICE), SIP, Unioncamere/INDIS, la conferenza permetterà di fare il punto sullo stato

d'utilizzo delle tecniche EDI di semplificazione, standardizzazione e teletrasmissione a livello nazionale, europeo e mondiale, e come queste possano apportare dei benefici finanziari notevoli.

Contact: Sra Sonia Mattioli
XCOMS International Srl
Via Popoli Uniti 24
I-20125 Milano
Tel.: +39 2 2822153

European Electronic Mail Association

An electronic mail association has been formed with the aim of promoting the use of email: educating the public about the benefits and applications and to act as a forum for the exchange of information opinions and analysis between users, vendors, service providers. PTTs and government

and international bodies in the field.

Contact: Ids Zandleven
Philips International
Corporate Communications,
Bld VN5
P O Box 218
NL 5600 MD Eindhoven
Tel: +31 40 783424
Telex: 35000

Computers in the 1990s

The computer industry has failed in many ways to live up to expectations of the early 1980s. According to Georges Anderla and Anthony Dunning in their book, **Computer strategies for the 1990s**, the difficulties experienced by large and small vendor organisations were often self-inflicted and exacerbated by management short-sightedness. Dubious ratings were assigned to the triad of innovation, marketing and costs. **Computer strategies** incorpo-

rates a practical set of guidelines to use as a frame of reference for cost efficient computer systems. The aim is to assist executives in working out radically new product policies developing demand driven technology under conditions of highly competitive pricing.

Contact: Wiley & Sons
Baffins Lane
GB-Chichester, Sussex
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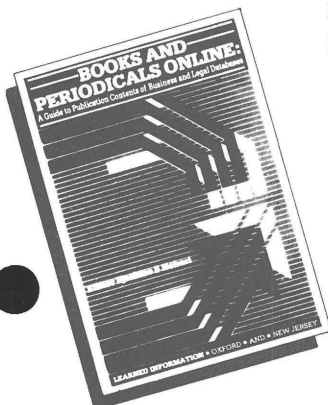
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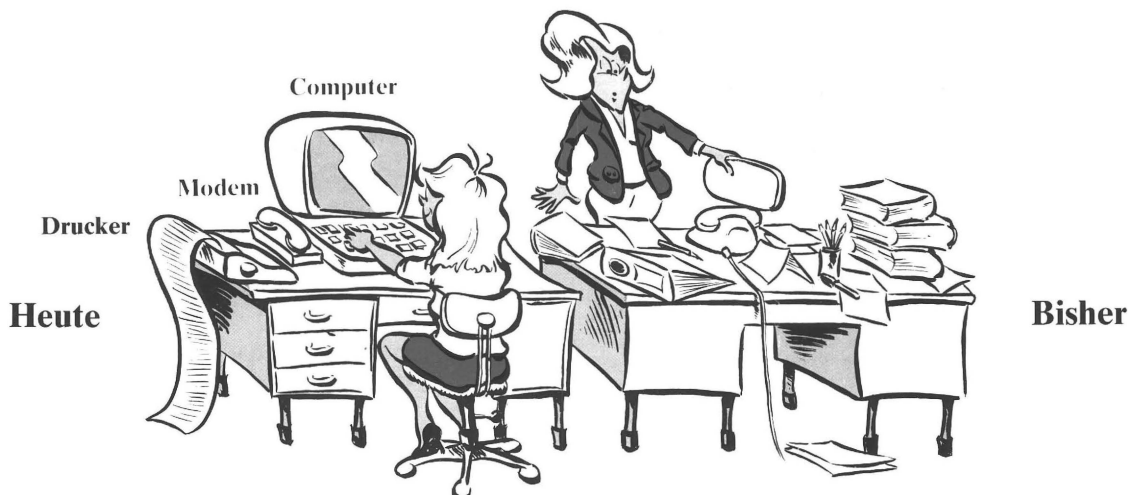
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L-1471 Luxemburg

bei speziellen Fragen oder Problemen:

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