

## EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is an independent, non-governmental, non-commercial body which promotes cooperation in international radio and television broadcasting. It acts as a broker through which broadcasters worldwide can exchange radio and television services, and in particular, news footage and complete programs via Eurovision for television and Euroradio for radio. EBU has its administrative headquarters in Geneva, headed by Secretary General Jean Reveillon of France. It also maintains a Eurovision control center (which moved from Brussels to Geneva in 1993); TV news coordination bureaus in New York, Washington, Moscow and Singapore; and a bureau to the European Union in Brussels.

Founded in 1950, the EBU is today the largest union of broadcasters in the world. As of October 2003, the Union had 71 active members in 52 countries of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East and 46 associate members in 29 countries further afield (including six in the United States). Other broadcasting unions feed material into and take from Eurovision's news exchanges, including Asiavision, Arabvision, and OTI/SIN for Latin America. The same applies to the major news film agencies. Coverage of U.S. news and other events in the Americas for Europe's viewers and listeners is coordinated by EBU's TV news coordination bureaus in New York and Washington.

In addition to program exchange, EBU is also concerned with organizing pools for broadcasting major events — such as the Olympic Games and the Football World Cup — and negotiating rights for its members for such events. It has a program of international live concert seasons, linking up countries as far apart as the United States, Japan, and Australia for live stereophonic radio transmissions and for live opera seasons on television and radio.

### EUROVISION

EBU's daily "Eurovision" television news and program exchanges are an essential element in TV programming worldwide. The EBU's members jointly finance the satellite circuits required for these exchanges. The television news items are then exchanged free of copyright between all participants, including contributions from the television news agencies. Individual news items are distributed on a dedicated Permanent News Channel. Live coverage, mainly intended for a growing number of national all-news channels, is assigned to the Permanent Events Network. News coverage is made available to participants as quickly as possible in news flashes, but there are also a large number of fixed rendez-vous. The main ones are at (timings in winter) 0430 GMT (for breakfast bulletins), 0930 GMT (late morning bulletins), 1100 GMT (noon bulletins), 1415 GMT (afternoon bulletins), 1600 GMT and 1730 GMT (early evening bulletins) and 2030 GMT for late evening bulletins. Coverage is made available without commentary and with clean video (no logos or captions).

The EBU has a permanent one-way satellite link across the Atlantic for channeling U.S. news to Europe — primarily for injecting American news material (chosen by

EBU's New York and Washington offices) into the Eurovision news service, but also for U.S.-based correspondents of EBU member broadcasters to feed material to Europe. The network also has a link to Asia which can be used for special events.

For breaking news stories, the EBU can establish broadcasting facilities for the back-haul of news stories from those locations where correspondents and producers are working. Eurovision is present at all major scheduled news events that attract a global interest: it was the host broadcaster for the G8 meeting in Evian, as well as for all of the European Union meetings. Its scope is not limited to the European broadcasting area. Because it has network capacity on a range of satellites, it also offered services September 2003 WTO meeting in Cancún as well as in Colorado Springs for the meeting of NATO Defense Ministers. And because of its close ties to the broadcast community, it is also able to quickly provide temporary production and transmission resources in response to breaking news. Following 9/11, Eurovision facilities were almost immediately available in Islamabad and Peshawar, followed shortly thereafter by the deployment of its own resources from Moscow to northern Afghanistan. During the most recent conflict over Iraq, Eurovision worked with the Royal Navy to provide temporary resources on board HMS Ark Royal, in addition to its own facilities in Baghdad, Kuwait, Qatar and Jordan.

Eurovision has worked closely with the International Broadcasting Bureau and the State Department for a number of these events, building on a relationship that goes back to the 1988 meeting between Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev in Moscow.

#### EURONEWS

EBU-member broadcasting organizations pooled their resources and know-how to launch, on January 1, 1993, the first round-the-clock European news channel. Based in Lyon, France, Euronews is a public service program free of charge to viewers in Europe.

#### EURORADIO

Radio program exchanges via Euroradio take place according to demand rather than at a fixed time of day. The Euroradio satellite network carries, on average, some 2,000 concerts and operas, 400 sports events, and 120 major news events each year.

#### INTERNET

*www.ebu.ch*  
*www.eurovision.net*

#### ADDRESS

European Broadcasting Union  
Ancienne Route 17A  
CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva  
Tel: 022.717.2111  
Fax: 022.747.4000

