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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS OF
EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (EDC)

Please find attached the report of the third meeting of national co-ordinators of European Documentation Centres (EDCs) held at Alghero (Sardinia) in the Hotel Carlos V, hired for the occasion by the University of Sassari from 5-6 March 2001.

The University of Sassari made all the local arrangements and even contributed towards the costs of the meeting, thus helping to ensure its success.

We would like to offer our special thanks to Mrs Elisabetta Pilia, EDC Librarian at the University of Sassari and national co-ordinator of the Italian EDCs, for her outstanding work in organising this meeting.

The group of co-ordinators was warmly welcomed by the Rector, Professor Alessandro Maida, by Prof. Paolo Fois, the academic in charge of the EDC at the University of Sassari, by Prof. Antonio Serra, President of the Library, as well as by other members of the academic body of the University. Because I shall be retiring before the end of March, I asked for a volunteer from those co-ordinators who can speak and read French and English to write the report. Patrick Overy, EDC Librarian at the University of Exeter, offered his services.

21 national co-ordinators took part in this meeting. Every member state was represented except for Luxembourg, which has no EDC, and Belgium, whose co-ordinator was unable to attend. Germany, Austria, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Sweden were each represented by two co-ordinators; Denmark, Spain, France, Greece and Ireland by only one.

In accordance with the decisions taken at the 2nd meeting of co-ordinators in Athens, 10-11 April 2000, 4 working groups were set up in which co-ordinators have collaborated between April 2000 and March 2001. These working groups presented their reports at the meeting, while other groups have been set up in addition to deal with new developments. A new group, reflecting the Commission's new policy towards EDCs, has also been added. All the groups are intended to operate interactively with one another. Those of the co-ordinators who were unable to be present are requested to express their interest in the different working groups described in the report.

The reports of the co-ordination meetings are benchmarks for the policies to be followed in the development of the network, as well as the starting point for future co-operation and co-ordination.

I feel that the EDC network is becoming stronger and stronger and that each co-ordination meeting leads it forward.

This meeting was the last I will have chaired. I take this opportunity to thank you for all the good co-operation and collaboration which has grown amongst us. This is really a collective operation. With your help, everything is possible, without you nothing is possible. I also take this opportunity to remind you, yet again, that you are a "group" of great professionalism and humanity. I will never forget you.

SIGNED

Isabel LOFF

Head of the Sector

European Documentation