



Brussels, 26 July 2000

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL COORDINATORS OF THE
EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRES (EDCs)
ATHENS, 10 - 11 APRIL 2000**

1. Programme

Monday, 10 April 2000

1.1. Opening address by Professor Emmanuel J. Yannakoudakis

Mr Keery gave the floor to Professor Emmanuel J. Yannakoudakis, Head of the Library and also Head of the Informatics Department, who welcomed the participants warmly on behalf of the Rector of the Athens University of Economics and Business, and highlighted the importance of the EDCs in universities as instruments of study and research and as a driving force in the field of European studies. He also underlined how invaluable the EDCs were as sources of information on European integration and the useful role they played as a network and in the Member States or elsewhere.

1.2. Presentation by Mr Keery

After the opening address by Professor Emmanuel J. Yannakoudakis, Mr Keery took the Chair once again to discuss the new Commission policy and its consequences, particularly in areas directly related to the EDC network.

Mr Keery informed the coordinators of the restructuring of the European Commission that was currently under way. The unit responsible for the EDCs was part of the new Directorate-General for Education and Culture, which brought together the former DGs X and XXII. In addition to its EDC responsibilities, Unit EAC-D3 was also responsible for the Commission's Central Library and for Commission databases. This new responsibility for databases offered opportunities for further synergies. The reorganisation of the Commission would continue to involve redeployment of staff and restructuring of costs/benefits. The impact of the reforms on DG EAC was difficult to predict but the current EDC management structure was guaranteed at least until the beginning of 2001. The current political changes in the free distribution of EUR-OP publications was a direct result of the restructuring process and of budget reductions in certain areas of Commission activity. Unit EAC-D3 would continue to fight for recognition of the importance of the EDC network and to ensure that efforts to improve the quality of the network would bear fruit.

1.3. Presentation by Ms Loff

At Mr Keery's invitation, Ms Loff presented the issues to be discussed during the meeting, commenting on or explaining each one.

The issues which had been proposed were as follows:

- **Draft *vade mecum***

A draft *vade mecum* setting out the rights and obligations of the EDCs/DEP, which could in future serve as a guide for the EDCs/DEP, had been distributed to the coordinators in advance to ensure that they were properly informed and in a position to discuss this issue.

- **Evaluation**

A three-year pilot project had begun in 1999 and was based on two essential tools - **activity reports/questionnaires** and **visits by professionals to the EDCs/DEP**:

- A questionnaire had been sent to the EDCs and most had responded.
- The results had already been analysed.
- An initial report had been submitted and sent to the coordinators in advance.

Proposal concerning a new questionnaire that would be launched during 2001, taking account of the pilot project exercise. This questionnaire would be a kind of **annual activity report** and would, of course, still be an ongoing assessment instrument.

- **Training**

Call for comments and suggestions concerning training measures taken by our unit, i.e.:

- basic training;
- further training;
- ad hoc training.

- **Exchange programme**

Comments, suggestions and proposals concerning the management of the next exchange programme.

- **Development of EDC website**

Comments, suggestions and proposals concerning the development of the EDC/DEP website.