



N°99
October 2011

Official launch of Primed website!

In "CMCA", there is the word 'communication' – and to communicate you need two things: a transmitter and a receiver! We hope more and more of you will receive our communications (12,000 subscribers at last count).

All of you who receive this letter will discover that you now have a new information tool: **a website specifically for the International Award for Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Film, the PriMed.**

You may think Just one more tool. Yes, but this is a very special one. It encourages and publicises the very best documentaries about the Mediterranean, through **PriMed, which will take place in Marseilles from December 6th to 9th.**

So, Happy surfing around www.primed.tv !

Also in this letter you will find all the usual items: a full account of the CMCA's autumn projects, news about Tunisian media as October 23rd's elections draw near, and a close-up on the Shashat Women's Film Festival.

François Jacquél, CMCA Managing Director

Méditerranée Audiovisuelle-La Lettre. Dépôt Légal 17 janvier 2011. ISSN : 1634-4081. *Tous droits réservés*

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Le CMCA est soutenu par les cotisations de ses membres, la Ville de Marseille, le Département des Bouches du Rhône et la Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur



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HEADLINE STORY

AUTUMN AT THE CMCA

The start of a new term, and already the CMCA team is busy working on the organisation's different projects and activities!

October marks the launch of the **new PrimMed website** (International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film) : www.primed.tv (see page 5). In November our newsletter "*Méditerranée Audiovisuelle*" will celebrate its 100th issue.



The CMCA has also recently hosted **two new training sessions**. The first, from September 26th to 30th, was at Aix-en-provence and focussed on "**new writing for documentaries and the new media**" with journalists from Algeria, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia, and Turkey taking part (photo).

The second training session was for "news film using archive material". It

was held from October 3rd to 6th at Marseilles, and, as last time, in collaboration with INA. Having worked mostly on theory during the first session (May 23rd to 27th), the journalists this time moved on to practical matters: shooting, editing and adding commentary to their films about Marseilles' villages, or neighbourhoods. On this course the journalists were from television companies in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

On the production side, **the series project "These Differences Bring us Together"** is in preparation. It's a collection of short current affairs films on those aspects of everyday life, culture and Mediterranean traditions which are common to all.

The first stage: September 26th to 30th **shooting and editing a series pilot, "Petanque"**, in Morocco, with the collaboration of the Morocco's 2M and its head of news and documentary magazines, Reda Benjellooun.

The event marking the end of the year will of course be **PriMed**, in Marseilles from the 6th to 9th December. On the last day, the 9th, there will be discussions about the Arab Spring and its consequences on the local media. Then, on the evening of the same day, the award-giving ceremony.

As part of the preparations for this event, the CMCA showed some 20 of the PriMed films as part of the **Cycle of News Films and Documentaries, organised in Algiers by the "Cinémathèque Algérienne"** from September 15th to 19th (photo : Badia Sator between Ahmed Djabri and François Jacquel).



The CMCA will also support **"Marseilles, capital of Current Affairs Film"** organised by the Marseilles Press Club from October 13th to 15th. The theme is women of the Mediterranean, and François Jacquel, our managing director, will present two video documents which introduce those themes before the debates "Women and Culture" (Thursday October 13th at 6.00pm), and "Woman Confronted with Violence" (Friday October 14th at 5.00pm). Another debate entitled "What freedom for the Press after the Arab Revolutions?" will be held on

that Saturday. Many well-known speakers will be there, the award for free speech will be given on the Saturday evening. Entry is free but places may be limited.

From November 3rd to 5th the CMCA will take part in the screenings which are part of the **"Ecrans d'Averroès"** at Marseilles. Four films from PriMed will be shown at the *Maison de la Région*.

Finally from November 23rd to 29th, PriMed films will take part in the **Panorama of European Film**, in Cairo.

As well as all this, the CMCA and its subscribers continue to support and champion the Mediterranean media, especially in Tunisia. (see page 8.)

A busy, compelling end of year. We hope you will share it with us.

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The website of the month... www.primed.tv, PriMed's official new site: interview with its creator Franco Revelli



Why a new website for PriMed ?

The last few editions of what used to be called the “International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film” showed us clearly the event was becoming more and more successful. To open it out still further we needed to create a better, more independent communication tool.

By building a website for PrimMed we wanted to do 5 things:

- create an independent web space which is technically more sophisticated than a simple blog
- re-organise the information about the Festival's history
- create a modern IT tool which integrates multimedia content (images, videos, text) and makes it possible for surfers to interact easily by leaving messages
- develop a space which can attract new partners by publicising the Festival
- make it easier to follow the calendar of screenings and other events all through the year

How to you do this?

Having defined the objectives we first of all worked at reorganising the existing on-line content. That way we could identify the weak points which needed correcting. Our first problem was the name. We had to simplify it, make it more dynamic, so the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film (aka the CMCA Award) became PriMed.

Then we had to think of a domain name which reflects that new name. We chose www.primed.tv with a .tv extension so as to make it obvious that we are working in broadcasting

After this initial work we began building the new internet portal, using the blog of earlier festivals, which allowed us not only to keep an editorial and graphic continuity, but also to re-affirm a way of communicating that is simple and efficient, based on integrating static pages with dynamic pages.

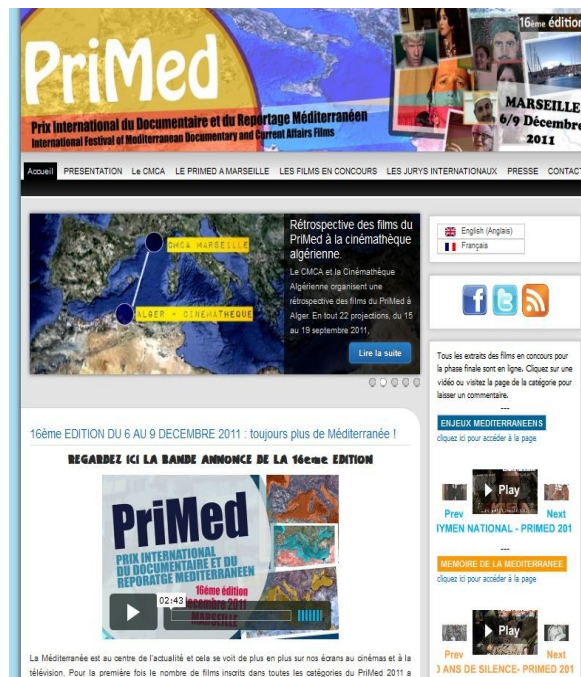
So we rebuilt the tree structure of the blog, adding more content, more videos and a new system of translating for foreign language versions.

What are the strong points of this new site

www.primed.tv has four strong points:

- a re-vamped graphic and look, to make a better way of showing surfers the specificities of broadcasting and the Mediterranean melting-pot;
- better integration between static pages and dynamic pages with a slide show on the home page which quickly shows PriMed's links to what's going on;
- a time-line of every year's festival with a list of every film selected and given an award;
- a digital video library linked to the CMCA's website.

In short, PriMed's new website allows better integration with other social media like Facebook and Twitter. Particular care went into the online videos, taking advantage of the new technologies used in making web-documentaries. Films, the festival's main resource, remain at the core of the website through a system of video galleries which allow users to view clips straight from the home page. So the new technology for integrating images and videos has made it possible for us to create a fast way of communicating thanks to the efficiency of visual language.



In addition, a new Press Space has been set up to help journalists and researchers find our press releases and, through the video gallery, to view every TV report filed during the previous editions.

To gather all the information spread across several internet portals (CMCA, RAI and blog), we have developed a special page on previous editions:

<http://primed.tv/presentation/historique>.

This page, called "History", tells in a simple way the story of this event since its beginnings. The user simply clicks on the town corresponding to each year of the festival and that will access a specific page with charts and information on the films in competition. For the most recent festivals (2008/2010) there is even the option of viewing a video with excerpts from the award-winning films.

We wish you all happy surfing!

Have a look at www.primed.tv, launched on October 5th !

Revolution and evolution in the Arab countries... it continues



[#Tunisia / Tunisian Television's election coverage....seen by Hamadi Ghidaoui, journalist-reporter and general news co-ordinator for the election campaign](#)

For the coverage of the Constituent elections which will take place on October 23rd, Tunisian Television has a carefully prepared programme which began back in September by recording speeches by the leader of each list. These speeches are broadcast twice daily, between 6.00 and

8.00pm and between 9.00 and 11.00pm every day of the campaign, from October 1st through to the 21st.

At the same time the news department gives daily coverage of the parties' activity in the televised news programmes, particularly at 8.00pm and every day there are also on-the-spot duplex reports featuring different candidates.

For October 22nd, which will be a day off as far as broadcasting political programmes is concerned, the news department is preparing an open space for live coverage, and a set where a presenter will talk to guests. Pre-recorded pieces about life in Tunisia (education, health, women) will be broadcast, alternating with duplexes from all over the country to give live coverage of the final preparations on the eve of the ballot.

From 10.00am on October 23rd until 6.00am the following morning, the channel will only broadcast election material. The coverage will be interspersed with memorable recordings, guests, on-the-spot duplex reports and updates every hour.

Finally, on October 24th, the results will be announced live on Tunisian Television by the *Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Elections* (Independent Higher Electoral Authority).

[#Tunisia / Recommendation to give licences to five new television channels](#)



While the Ministry of the Interior gave the green light for 122 new paper publications and 12 new radio stations several months ago, the National Forum for the Reform of Information and Communication (INRIC) announced on September 7th it would grant new television licences to just five of the 33 candidates: El Hiwar Ettounsi, Golden TV,

Khamsa TV, Ulysse TV, and TWT. In its communiqué, the INRIC also recommended the granting of a licence for a public sport channel, under the wing of the *Etablissement de Radiodiffusion-Télévision Tunisienne* (ERTT). Lastly it pushed for the creation of a fund to encourage private television production, and programmes which have a cultural or social content. To help the new channels, INRIC also recommended a reduction in the costs of broadcasting and symbolic taxes for non-profit-making charitable channels.



Tunisia / Soon a “Black List” of corrupt journalists

The National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), which has decided to establish a black list of corrupt journalists, announced on September 17th the creation of a Commission to agree the criteria for the list. 10 journalists chosen for their experience, competence and integrity will sit on the Commission. The journalists' union will base its list on the conclusions of the national investigation commission's report on embezzlement and corruption in the country. The report mentions journalists accused of being too close to the former regime of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, and of committing “crimes against journalists, the news sector and all Tunisian people.” It also targets journalists who co-operated with the *Agence Tunisienne de Communication Extérieure* (ATCE), an organisation of the former regime which censored foreign media.



Mokhtar Rassâa et
Jean-Paul Philippot

#Tunisia / The EBU strengthens its support for Tunisian media

On September 13th the President of the EBU (European Broadcasting Union), Jean-Paul Philippot, visited the Tunisian Prime Minister Béji Caïd Essebsi, the Minister in charge of relations with the institutions, Ridha Belhaj and Mokhtar Rassâa, Tunisian Television's CEO.

He used the occasion to re-iterate his support for public service media in Tunisia and announced the launch of a specific programme to give technical and editorial support to help them cover the elections on October 23rd.

The EBU and its members will supply technical support, services, even the means of increasing broadcasting capacity as well as professional expertise, costed at 200,000 euros, some of it as a loan. This financial help has to conform to certain rules of professional ethics, editorial independence, impartiality and transparency in the treatment of the elections.

Thus, on the CMCA's initiative, a way of transmitting satellite reports (DSNG vehicles, photo) are being provided. The EBU will provide several units rented from *Films de Soleil* at Marseilles (Jacques Hubinet, CMCA treasurer) which will go to Tunisia on October 19th to cover the election evening.

Other actions will be put in place after the elections (technical training, legal advice) so as to help the Tunisian media become a true democratic public service organisation.





[#Algérie /The broadcasting field opening up to private media companies](#)

On September 12th the council of Algerian ministers chaired by the Head of State Abdelaziz Bouteflika, adopted a new bill which aims to strengthen freedom of the written press. It will do this by creating a press regulation authority with half of its members nominated by the Head of State and Parliament, half chosen by the press corporations.

As far as broadcasting is concerned, a specific law has been voted, also proposing a regulation authority to establish agreements with private companies as part of the process of opening up broadcasting. Private radio and television stations will soon make their appearance in Algeria for the first time. A national authority of ethical behaviour for the press will be there to make sure the media respect the rules.

The Algerian minister of Communication, Nacer Mehala, confirmed they will seek the help of Rachid Arhab of France's Higher Broadcasting Council (CSA) to draw up a list of specifications. He also said the first private channels will start broadcasting in 2012 . At the moment there are only five television channels in Algeria, all public.

Among the groups which have already applied for a channel is EL Watan, owner of the major daily newspaper of the same name. The group submitted an accreditation package for commissioning television and radio channels. Their aim is to create general interest channels which target a wide public and offer a *"new look at how news is treated."*



The El Khabar group has the same ambitions and hopes to launch a radio and television channel for news and local subjects. Broadcasting tests will be carried out shortly. The channel will take the name and logo of the daily newspaper El Khabar, which has a national circulation of 100,000.

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[#The Lebanon / Les Forces Libanaise launch an on-line television](#)

On July 26th the Lebanese political party, *Les Forces Libanaises*, launched an internet-only television channel: lftv.tv. Managed by Lebanese Information Technology Services, lftv.tv is conceived as a complement to the party's official website, offering 5 or 6 hours of streaming a day, including news, financial, sport and entertainment programmes.

Tony Abi Najem, Managing Director of LITS, hopes to reach “*an audience of 150,000 to 200,000 people*,” mainly amongst the young who are more connected.

The lack of legislation about web-TV allows lftv.tv to get round the 1993 broadcasting law forbidding Lebanese political parties from having television channels.

At the same time, still according to M. Najem, the trial pitting *Forces Libanaises* against Pierre Daher, managing director of LBC (the most popular Lebanese channel in the Arab world), “*will begin before the end of this year*.” The party wants to get back control of the channel which it created in 1985. “*We would like to make LBC the channel watched by the Christians of the Lebanon*,” he said.



[#France / Un nouveau Directeur Général pour France 2](#)

On September 30th Claude-Yves Robin was dismissed as head of France2. Formerly director of France5, then France 4, he was put in charge of France's most important public service channel in 2010. He has been replaced by Bertrand Mosca (photo), former head of programmes at France3, who nevertheless keeps his job as deputy director of innovation, diversity and new cultures. M. Mosca now has the daunting task of boosting France 2's viewing figures, which, since the beginning of this year, have been declining.



[#Qatar / Al Jazeera's managing director resigns](#)

Wadah Khanfar has resigned as Al Jazeera's managing director. He has occupied this position since 2003. He announced his decision to the channel's staff and his resignation was confirmed on the Qatari group's website on September 21st. The origin of this unexpected decision

seems to be the appearance of his name on a comprising document published by WikiLeaks. According to Julian Assange's website, Wadah Khanfar is alleged to have shown a certain complacency towards the US in the treatment of news. A 2010 diplomatic cable released recently suggests that M. Khanfar was in contact with the American Secret Services and let them look at any editorial content critical of the United States.

Sheikh Ahmed Ben Jassem Ben Mohamed Al-Thani, a member of the Qatari royal family, should take his place as managing director.



[# Saudi Arabia / 2012 Launch for Prince Al-Walid's news channel](#)

The Saudi prince Al-Walid, owner of the Kingdom Holding group, will launch a new channel of non-stop news, Alarab, at some point in 2012, to “*accompany the Arab Spring and contribute to the encouragement of freedom of speech in the Arab world.*” Alarab will

make use of a network of journalists across the region and will compete directly against Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya, the two most popular Arab-speaking news channels. A daily five-hour section will be given over to economic and financial news in partnership with the American group Bloomberg. The Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi has been chosen to run Alarab. However, it has not yet been decided which town will broadcast the channel. Manama (Bahrain), Doha (Qatar), Dubai (United Arab Emirates), Abu Dhabi (EAU), or Beirut (Lebanon) are all possibilities.

[#France / Pierre Hanotaux AEF's new managing director](#)



Since May 2011 and the departure of Christine Ockrent, the AEF (*Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France* – French Broadcasting World Service) has been without a managing director. Now her replacement has been announced: Pierre Hanotaux, who up to now has been cabinet director to Culture Minister Frédéric Mitterrand. With Damien Cuier, Hanotaux was one of two candidates imposed on Alain de Pouzilhac, AEF's chairman, by the Ministry of Finance. The French state being the principal share-holder of AEF, this nomination will allow it to control the organisation's finances better.

The reform of the AEF should go hand in hand with a reorganisation of the management of one of its subsidiaries, France24. Christian de Villeneuve, former head of the *Journal de Dimanche*, should be nominated as the new managing director of France24, over Jean Lesieur and Nahida Nakad, the two present Directors of News.



© François Lefebvre

[# France / France Télévisions becomes the media partner of Marseille-Provence 2013](#)

A partnership agreement was signed on September 17th between Rémy Pflimlin (photo, on the left), CEO of *France Télévisions*, and Jean-François Chougnet (photo, on the right), managing director of the organisation running the "Marseille-Provence, European culture capital 2013" programme.

Their collaboration affects several areas:

recording all the meetings, particularly the big get-togethers planned for 2013, distribution of images, production and dissemination of programmes about Marseille, Provence and Mediterranean culture.

For Jacques Pfister, chairman of Marseille-Provence 2013, the agreement is "*the guarantee of being broadcast at national and European level as well as locally, thanks to France3 Provence-Alpes*". On his side, M. Chougnet believes this agreement will allow people "*to get to know the Marseille-Provence 2013 project better*" and will contribute to the dissemination of the talent and tradition of Provençal and Mediterranean creators."

A few days earlier a similar partnership agreement was signed with another media partner, the principal regional newspaper *La Provence*.

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PROGRAMMES

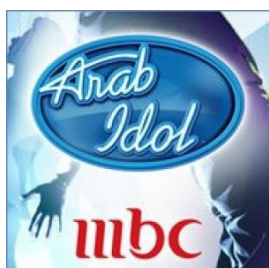
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[# Saudi Arabia / Casting begins for the pan-Arab version of "American Idol"](#)

The Saudi channel MBC1 has begun casting the pan-Arab version of "American Idol", which it hopes to start transmitting in December 2011. This TV-reality show, already adapted by 44 countries, uses a jury to judge amateur singers and find the most talented. The casting of "Arab Idol" began on September 4th in

Cairo, before moving on to Casablanca, Dubai, Kuwait and London. The programme seems to have found its public, since a thousand hopefuls turned up at Casablanca's Royal Mansour hotel. The talent selection continued on October 5th at the Karthago-Gammarth Palace (Tunisia), October 15th in Beirut (Lebanon), then to Jordan on a date yet to be announced. The jury includes Ragheb Alama, a Lebanese singer and Ahlam, a singer from the Emirates. "Arab Idol" will be broadcast on HD and MBC1 viewers will be able to vote for the winner live by texting a message.



[#Palestine / An independent news programme on Palestinian screens](#)

Since July there has been a new player on the chessboard of Palestinian TV news programmes: "Ma'an", broadcast on the satellite channel Mix-Ma'an (Nilesat), is a daily independent news programme made on the West Bank in a Bethlehem studio (photo). Ma'an is a politically independent, Palestinian not-for-profit media organisation, which gives it much more credibility than its two main rivals, the news programmes of Palestine TV (Fatah) and Aqsa TV (Hamas). Every day there is a 60-minute programme featuring reports by local stations, making it possible to cover events in every Palestinian region, even on the fringe. The content is co-produced by Ma'an and the Israeli-Palestinian Mix.



[#France / France3 Provence-Alpes unveils its autumn schedules.](#)

The regional channel France3 Provence-Alpes has unveiled new items for their autumn schedules. On weekdays, after the traditional "12/13" news programme, a thirty-minute talk-show "13h00 avec vous," will be broadcast from a café or brasserie in the region.

As from October there will be a new monthly magazine of current affairs reports, "*Enquêtes de régions*". From now on the regular documentary slot, "Doc 24", will be on Wednesday evenings at 11.55 pm. And "*Vies croisées sur la grande bleue*," coordinated by Carine Aigon, will look at the lives of Mediterranean people. "*Méditerranée*", "*La voix est libre*", and "*Méditerranée au cœur*" (this year about the Arab Spring) will also be on the schedules.

The channel's website (<http://provence-alpes.france3.fr>) grows and modernises with greater interactivity with the social networks and new media (smart phones, pads)

Photo : from left to right, Joël Barcy, senior editor, Thierry Bezer, journalist, Bruno Le Dref, regional representative, Marc Ripoll, deputy director of editorial coordination and Hervé Lavigne, journalist.



[#Israel / The jury of a TV-reality show guilty of plotting and extortion](#)

At the end of August, Margalit Tsanani (photo, centre), one of the members of the jury of the TV-reality show "*Kohav Nolad*", was found guilty of blackmail and conspiring to commit a crime against her manager.

"*Kohav Nolad*" is the equivalent of "*Star Academy*" or "*American Idol*". Ms Tsanani, an extremely popular singer in Israel, was for many years a member of the jury selecting potential singers for the show. She was accused of being in contact with a member of the local mafia and of trying to influence the results of the competition so she could extort money from one of the candidates. This business has seriously affected "*Kohav Nolad's*" credibility, one of the most-watched programmes in Israel.

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[#France / The summary of October's Mediterraneo](#)

- Tunisia, the first post-Ben Ali elections: there will be three reports on Tunisia. The first focusses on the fight against corruption and the work of the national investigation committee whose job is to prepare files for the public prosecutor. The second will look at the authority's new emergency plan for poor regions. And lastly a report on the rediscovered freedom of speech, particularly as it affects Tunisian artists.
- In Egypt the first elections after the uprising will take place at the end of November. *Mediterraneo* looks at the condition of Egyptian women: the 2005 census showed Egypt has 80 million inhabitants, half of whom are women.
- Libya, and the still-evolving situation: spot-light on the Libyan community in France and a meeting in Paris with the country's new representatives.
- In Greece, tourism is the most important activity. With the social unrest of last spring and summer and the international crisis, one might have expected a catastrophic season, but in fact there were more tourists than last year. Only problem was.....they spent far less.
- In Algeria a few voices are raised against the damage done by building a motorway through the El Kala national park.
- In France it is shale gas which activates the ecologists. In July 2011 a law was passed forbidding exploration by hydraulic fracturing.
- In Italy a journey to the Aegadian Islands, a virtually virgin environment. The example of Marettimo, one of the three big islands of this archipelago close to Sicily.

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ECONOMY

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[#Israel / Israel hopes to attract foreign film productions](#)

At the beginning of September, the Israeli cinema authorities announced various measures to encourage more films to be shot in the country. Producers who choose to film in Israel will be given an All-Risk insurance against bombings, as much as 400,000 dollars and tax exemptions. Yoram Honig, film-maker and head of the Jerusalem Film Fund, says "*it's absurd that films set in Jerusalem are shot in Malta, Morocco or Greece*". At the moment less than 10 foreign productions a year (most of which are European) are filmed in Israel, while during the same period Morocco receives 20 to 30. Jerusalem is particularly avoided by film-makers, even national ones: of the 600 Israeli films made since 1948, only about thirty were filmed in the holy city.



[#France / Bit by bit Orange is getting out of broadcasting](#)

Having sold off Orange Cinema Series to Canal Plus this summer, Orange is now preparing to close down Orange Sports. The possibility of selling it to Al Jazeera, who recently acquired the international TV rights to French Championship soccer, is now receding since the Qatari company seems to have lost interest. The loss of Orange Sport is valued at €150 million. The group is also looking for a solution for Studio 37, its film co-production subsidiary. The loss of its principal distributor, Orange Cinema Series, must put a question mark over the subsidiary. According to Orange management, they have to find growth drivers and complementary activities within the next two years.



GROUPE

[#France / The merger of CanalSat and TPS delayed, Canal+ fined](#)

On September 21st the French competition authority announced it had withdrawn its decision to authorise CanalSat's merger with TPS, both satellite bouquets. *"The Competition Authority finds that the Canal Plus group has not honoured the contractual obligations made when it purchased TPS – some of which are essential. We withdraw our decision to authorise the operation, which means the parties have a month to re-submit the operation. In addition the Authority fines Canal Plus €30 million."*

The merger had been concluded and authorised back in 2006, when Canal Plus agreed some 60 contractual obligations to ensure it did not abuse its dominant position in the satellite TV market. The Competition Authority has pointed out that 10 of these obligations have been disregarded, in particular *"making channels available and maintaining their quality."* Canal Plus has announced its decision to appeal to the *Conseil d'Etat*.



[#France / Canal+ buys Direct8 to provide free DTT](#)

Forced to get rid of its DTT bonus channel (judged illegal by the EC), Canal Plus has finally found a means of getting into the free DTT market. At the beginning of September the group announced it had acquired 60% of the capital of Direct8 and Direct Star from the Bolloré group. Together they reach 4% of the audience. Canal Plus has to pay out €280 million in Vivendi shares for this transaction and before 2014 acquire the remaining 40% of the capital, worth €185 million. The conclusion of this operation is nevertheless dependent on the green light from the CSA and the competition authorities. The Canal Plus group must also shed one of its seven DTT pay channels, the rules forbidding operators to control more than 7 DTT frequencies.



Frédéric Lopez

[#France / Good export results for French TV](#)

According to a study by the CNC (*Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée*) and TVFI (TV France International), made public in September, international sales of French programmes brought in €105.6 million in 2010.

Compared with 2009, this represents an increase of 5.1%. Also according to this study, two thirds of the companies which exported programmes in

2010 saw their turnover increase significantly. Animated programmes brought in the most (34.8 million), ahead of documentaries and current affairs programmes (€26.4 million), drama (€19.1 million) and entertainment (17.2 million). Only drama programmes saw their overall turnover decline, due to a drop in French production.

Italy, Germany and Austria are the major buyers and go for programmes such as "*Fort Boyard*", "*Intervilles*" or "*Panique dans l'oreillette*" (photo). French programmes are also doing much better in Asia (+18.6% for sales), North America (+28.3%) and Latin America (+61.1%).

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[#Tunisia / A National Centre for Cinema and the Image will be created soon](#)

On August 16th the Tunisian council of ministers rubber stamped the creation of a National Centre for Cinema and the Image in Tunis. This decision will please professionals, organisations and unions working in the Tunisian film sector, who have been demanding this for a long time. They had managed to mobilise a special

commission to think about the future of Tunisian cinema, particularly how to finance it. The CNCI will have to “*discuss, draft and draw up public policies for the cinema so it can become a real industry.*”



[#Morocco / Nadir Moknèche filming *Goodbye Morocco*](#)

On October 4th the Algerian film-maker Nadir Moknèche (*Le Harem de Mme Osmane*, *Viva Laldjérie*) began shooting his fourth feature film, “*Goodbye Morocco*”. The film follows a pair of lovers, a Moroccan Lubna Azabal and the Franco-Serbian Rasha Bukvic, who is building a luxury villa in Tangier. When 3rd century Christian tombs are uncovered on

the site, one of the workers mysteriously disappears.

Filming will last seven weeks and will take place in Lyons and Casablanca. “*Goodbye Morocco*” is produced by Blue Monday (France) and co-produced by France2 Cinema, Rhône-Alpes Cinema (France) and Need Productions (Belgium). It should be released in French cinemas at the end of 2012.



[#Algeria / The short *Garagouz* continues to gather its rewards](#)

Garagouz, a short film by the Algerian director Abdenour Zahzah, won two prestigious awards at the beginning of September. First of all it won the Town of Venice award as part of the 68th Venice Film Festival, which took place between August 31st and September 10th. A few days later it won the Best Image Award at the 4th International Bueu Festival in Spain.

Earlier this year it had already done very well, gathering awards all round the world: at the Busan Festival (South Korea), at Aubagne (France), at Saguenay (Quebec), Oran (Algeria), Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and at Fespaco de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) – among others.

This short film is about the tribulations of a puppeteer father and his son travelling through several Algerian villages.



[#United States / The race for the 2012 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film](#)

Every country had until October 3rd to submit a film to represent it in the competition for Best Foreign Language Film at next year's Oscars. Out of the 61 submitted this year, just five will make it to the short-list, which will be announced on January 25th.

Iran logically chose Asghar Farhadi's "A Separation" (photo), which won the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and is a favourite for an Oscar. But the competition is fierce: *La Guerre est Déclarée* by Valérie Donzelli (France), Nadine Labaki's *Et Maintenant On Va Où?* (Lebanon), *Omar m'a Tuer* by Roschdy Zem (Morocco), Emanuele Crialese's *Terraferma* (Italy), *Attenberg* by Athina Rachel Tsangari (Greece), Marian Crisan's *Morgen* (Romania), *Footnote* by Joseph Cedar (Israel), Janez Burger's *Silent Sonata* (Slovenia), *72 Days* by Danilo Serbedzija (Croatia), or Dragan Bjelogrić's *Montevideo God Bless You!* (Serbia). The Algerian actor Fellag also features in this pre-selection since he heads the cast of Philippe Falardeau's *Monsieur Lazhar*, which will represent Canada. The Oscar ceremony itself is on February 27th in Los Angeles.

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FESTIVALS

The festival of the month...The Shashat Women's Film Festival, Palestine, from September 24th to December 15th

Shashat's Women's Film Festival is the only annual festival in the Arab world devoted entirely to women. The seventh will take place from September 24th to December 15th and be the final stage of the "I am a woman from Palestine" project, which has given six young women filmmakers from Gaza the chance to take part in three month's intensive training, making six short films about their own lives in Palestine, with technical help given by the University of Al Aqsa (Gaza).

These six films will be presented in the Festival, along with four other short films which are the work of more experienced Palestinian directors, produced by the Shashat association.

In all, 10 short films will be screened in 13 Palestinian towns in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank: Nablus, Tulkarem, Jenin, East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Birzeit, Hebron, Bethlehem and Abu Dees. A fully-fledged national tour with 85 screenings in 8 universities and 10 partner organisations.



These are the 10 films presented:

- *5 Cups & A Cup*, by Laila Abbas (10'): Over a cup of coffee a group of feminists have a tense political discussion, just before being received by the Palestinian president.
- *The Fig & The Olive*, by Georgina Asfour (19'): The story of a woman and a house, mixing dream and imagination, love and politics
- *Acrid & Honey*, by Lana Hijazi (9'): A film on maternity, through the portraits of two women, one the mother of quintuplets, the other pregnant with her first baby.
- *It's A Tough Life*, by Dara Khader (10'): Two young women in their early twenties in a race against time to get a small sum of money which could solve their problems.
- *.com*, by Fatema Adu Odeh (7'): How Palestinian youth escape from the realities of Israeli occupation and the fears that this engenders.
- *Portrait*, by Rana Mattar (6'): A portrait of the Palestinian painter Rasha Abu Zayed, questioning her relationship with painting, colour, and the architecture of "old Gaza" (photo)
- *Kamkamah*, by Eslam Elayan and Areej Abu Eid (6'): How people hide in Gaza, both personally and socially.
- *Step & A Half*, by Enass Ayish (5'): During a journey to the town of Khan Younis, a woman tries to break the psychological barriers put up by the military occupiers and the Gazan people
- *Sardine & Pepper*, by Athar Al-Jadili and Alaa Desoki (6'): The relationship of the town of Gaza to sardines and peppers, and what that reveals of the Gazan way of life.
- *Madleen*, by Riham Al-Ghazali (6'): The story of Madleen Klab, first fisherwoman in Gaza, and of her particular relationship with the sea.



And, still as part of the "I am a woman from Palestine" project, all these films will be shown in a special programme on Palestinian TV, and also on some local channels. After these broadcasts there will be discussions about the social and political subjects raised in the films, using vox pops and interviews with experts.

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THE OTHER FESTIVALS

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[#France / Call for applications for the 13th Aubagne Festival](#)

The 13th Aubagne International Film Festival will be held between March 19th and the 24th next year. As every year, the festival is for short films and features made by young directors with less than four films to their credit. Registration for the 2012 Festival is open

until October 14th 2011. Any film that is the director's first, second or third work may be entered. All feature films must have specially-composed music. The short film category is for films of less than 30 minutes and either the sound track must be in some way special or it must have original music. Eight of the eleven awards will be accompanied by an endowment of between €750 and €3,000. Registration: feature films: <http://cineaubagne.fr/>; shorts: <http://filmfestplatform.com>



[#France / The winner of the *Visa pour l'Image* Festival](#)

Russian photographer Yuri Kozyrev received the *Visa d'Or* in the News category at Perpignan's *Visa pour l'Image* Festival. The top award was given for Kozyrev's photo-reportage of the revolutions in Egypt, Libya and Bahrain: "The paths of the revolution" (photo). In the Magazine category, the French photographer Olivier Jobard won first prize for

his "Zarsis-Lampedusa, the odyssey of hope", which shows Tunisians crossing to Lampedusa in a fishing boat. The International Committee of the Red Cross awarded a Humanitarian *Visa d'Or* to the Franco-Spanish photographer Catalina Martin Chico, who followed the uprising in Yemen. The prizes were distributed on Sept 4th



Algeria / A documentary film salon at Oum El Bouaghi

A salon for documentary film will be created “soon” in the district of Oum El Bouaghi (north eastern Algeria), according to the local branch of the *Direction de la Jeunesse et des Sports*. Initially planned as part of a vast programme of meetings, this salon will bring together young film-makers from the region and offer discussions as well as workshops for script-writing. A competition will be launched to reward the best local documentary production.



#Greece / Call for films for the 9th AGON Festival

The International Meeting of Mediterranean Archaeological Film, organised by the Greek association AGON, takes place every two years in Athens. The ninth edition will be held next year between May 8th and 12th. A call for films has been launched for any film about archaeology, heritage or popular art and traditions. Every film produced after January 1st 2008 will be accepted: drama, documentary, animated film, news reports, educational films. Registration is open until November 25th 2011. Inscription and information: http://www.sitemaker.gr/agwn/page_ENGLISH_1.htm



#France / The 1st Yallah Film Festival will give its awards on October 19th

The Yallah Film Festival is the first short film festival given over entirely to the Arab Spring. Its aim is to show films of less than 3 minutes shot in a hurry using either a camera or a cell-phone. The festival presents another originality: it is a virtual festival. Every film selected (between 50 and 70 of them) is available on-line from September 26th to October 15th. A prestigious jury (Darina Al Joundi, Merzak Allouache, Lubna Azabal...) will announce the seven award-winners, who will received their awards at a ceremony on October 19th at the Arab World Institute in Paris. To watch all the chosen films: <http://www.yallahfilmfestival.com/>



[#France / Call for applications for FIGRA 2012](#)

Registration is open for the 2012 edition of the International Festival of Current Affairs and Documentary Film (FIGRA) which takes place every year at Touquet-Paris-Plage. One of the new features this year is an international competition for films of less than 40 minutes, for which two awards will be given by a special jury. Applications are open until October 31st 2011. For more information and the registration file, go to this address: <http://www.figra.fr/>



[#France / Focus on Tunisia at the Maghreb des Films 2011](#)

A large part of *Maghreb des Films 2011* will be given over to the Arab Spring. Tunisia in particular will be under the spotlight with tributes to two film-makers Selma Baccar and Nacer Khemir. As every year, ten films which have not been seen before, from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and France will be screened. *Maghreb des Films* runs from October 16th to 25th in Paris. Please note there will also be a retrospective about the massacre in Paris on October 17th

1961. For more information and the complete programme:

<http://maghrebdesfilms.fr/>



[#France / Mediterranean cinema at Montpellier](#)

Montpellier's 33rd International Festival of Mediterranean Cinema (cinemed) will be the chance to see some 250 films in the official selection, 100 of which have not been seen before. Running from October 21st to 29th, Cinemed 2011 will also offer discussions with Roschdy Zem, Sami Bouajila and Pascal Elbé, a retrospective of Pietro Germi/Stefania Sandrelli, tributes to Ventura Pons and Andréa Ferréol, a script-writing day with

Jacques Fieschi, and of course a section about the Egyptian revolution. For more information as well as the complete programme: <http://www.cinemed.tm.fr/>

You can also find the list of all the October festivals on our website :

<http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/festivals-et-marches/>

THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY

Italy / Launch of the Terramed Plus platform

Italy / Cultural cooperation agreements signed by Italy and Tunisia

Lebanon / Call for applications for DocMed

#Greece / *Terra Liquida*, a project for a Mediterranean web-documentary

#France / Renaud Muselier elected head of the Arab World Institute (IMA)



Italy / Launch of the Terramed Plus platform

On September 21st in Turin, as part of the 63rd edition of the Italia Prize, a press conference announced that "Terramed Plus" would be operational as from this month.

Co-funded by the European Union as part of the Euromed Audiovisual Programme III, the "Terramed Plus"

project fosters international cooperation between Mediterranean public service broadcasters. It was launched in 2010 to develop and strengthen the film and broadcasting capacities of Mediterranean countries, encouraging each national audiovisual industry to build and integrate with the others.

In order to make it easier for films to circulate between the two shores of the Mediterranean, "Terramed Plus" will be a weekly fixture both on satellite and the web, a shop window publicising the programmes of all the partners: documentaries, drama and every other type of film.

In addition to the satellite promotion facility, the project proposes a web platform which will include a video-on-demand library, where 115 hours of programmes made by the participating television companies will be accessible by streaming, free-of-charge and sub-titled.

Terramed Plus gathers seven broadcaster partners from the North and the South of the Euro-Mediterranean region: RAI, supported by COPEAM for international coordination, ARTE France, the Algerian public television EPTV, France Télévisions, the Spanish public television RTVE and the Moroccan SNRT. TélLiban is an associate partner, Skylogic/Eutelsat the consortium's technological partner.

"Terramed Plus" is an innovating project, with the principal aim of developing a Euro-Mediterranean audience, a broadcasting bridge for true dialogue between different cultures, particularly at this time of historic social changes right across the region.



Italy /Cultural cooperation agreements signed by Italy and Tunisia

On September 16th at Palermo (Sicily), seven agreements were signed strengthening the development of Italo-Tunisian cultural cooperation. These agreements apply to the fields of heritage, cinema and the culture professions. The Tunisian minister of culture, Ezzedine Bach Chaouch, who came to Palermo for the signing, met Sicily's regional president and many of the cultural players working in literature, fine art, research and training. The aim is to increase cultural and tourist exchanges between

Italians and Tunisians but also across the whole Mediterranean

Lebanon / Call for applications for DocMed



The DocMed project, led by Beirut DC (the Lebanon), Eurodoc (France) and Doc at Tunis (Tunisia), offers training in international co-production for personal documentaries. The training is aimed at producers and director/producers from the Arab Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, the Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. It allows selected candidates to share their worries at every stage of production, to benefit from profound knowledge and to be able to meet others with similar projects. Ten producers are

chosen each year to take part in DocMed.

DocMed 2012 will offer 3 sessions, each of one week: the first in March 2012 will be about development; a second session in June 2012 will demystify budgets, packaging and funding; finally during the last session in March 2013 trainees will meet the people who decide what films are made. Producers with a project have until November 30th 2011 to submit their application.

Registration and rules: http://www.beirutdc.org/beirutdc/news/default.aspx?ni_id=78



[#Greece / Terra Liquida, a project for a Mediterranean web-documentary](#)

The Greek film-maker Kimon Tsakiris (*Sugartown, Terre Brûlée*) is soon going to start work on a web-documentary project, *Terra Liquida*, about lives and journeys around the Mediterranean. He and his team will cover 5,000 kilometres through every Mediterranean country to meet ordinary people and to talk to them about their lives.

The aim is to harvest about a hundred interviews, each three minutes long, which will be published on a multi-media platform to make a mosaic of personal stories showing how memory and the culture of travel unites Mediterranean people. These videos will also be used to create a 52-minute documentary which will tell a Mediterranean story with a true structure and narrative and will give us a portrait of the men and women around the Mediterranean. The project is being made under the umbrella of Bi-Optic Productions.

For more information, contact Kimon Tsakiris : kimon@bioptic.eu



[#France / Renaud Muselier elected head of the Arab World Institute \(IMA\)](#)

On September 2nd Renaud Muselier announced his nomination as chairman of the High Council of the Arab World Institute (Paris). He replaces Dominique Baudis, who resigned in June to become *Défenseur des Droits*. The choice has been validated by the French president, Nicolas Sarkozy. Renaud Muselier, 52, is a doctor, currently running

a private hospital in Marseilles. Since 1993 he has also been a member of parliament (UMP) for the Bouches-du-Rhone as well as the first vice-chairman of the urban community *Marseille Provence Metropole* (MPM) and the chairman of the cultural council of the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM). The Arab World Institute is a French cultural foundation under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It brings together 21 Arab countries, aiming to improve “*French knowledge and understanding of the Arab world, its language and its civilisation*,” and to encourage “*cultural exchanges, communication and cooperation between France and the Arab world*.” Worth noting is that on M. Muselier's suggestion, the next meeting of the High Council of the AWI might be held in Marseilles.

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INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

apimed

Association internationale de producteurs indépendants de la Méditerranée

MEDIMED – Euro-Mediterranean Documentary Market
12th Edition - Sitges, OCTOBER 7th - 9th 2011



MEDIMED is the professional market-place for Euro-Mediterranean producers. A launch-forum which helps independent documentary producers and their commercial partners from Europe and the southern countries of the Mediterranean to find co-funding in the international market. For the buyers, the forum offers 25 pre-selected projects, all of which are either in preparation or production.

Created in 2000, MEDIMED is a market-place internationally recognised by documentary producers and distributors.

More than 50 distributors from Europe, the Middle East and North America regularly come to the event.

25 documentary projects from 14 countries and **460 programmes** from 41 countries have been chosen. Dima Al Joundi, (Crystal Films, Lebanon), Bernadette Carranza (Intesa, Italy), John Marshall (Docos Limited, UK) and Montse Portabella (Motion Pictures, Spain) are part of the selection committee.

MEDIMED is interested particularly in films which are about social, cultural and political problems. To be eligible, each project must already have a partner working in the business (e.g. broadcaster) who will come and co-present the project if it is selected.

Each year propositions arrive from the whole Euro-Mediterranean area, they all have to be either in development or in pre-production. An international committee then pre-selects the best 25. Later, during the three days of MEDIMED, those pre-selected are presented by their production teams to would-be financiers.

ONE-on-ONE

A major bonus offered by MEDIMED is to organise individual interviews between producers and potential buyers or commissioning editors. This one-on-one service is open to all delegates, buyers and distributors.



Ahmed Attia

Festival FIDA DOC, and Víctor Carrera, director of international relations at *Televisió de Catalunya*.

THE AHMED ATTIA AWARD 2011

The Ahmed Attia Award for dialogue between cultures was created as a tribute to the memory of the honorary chairman of APIMED. The award is for programmes which have been pitched at an earlier session of the MEDIMED market. The jury consists of APIMED's vice-chairman Mohamed Charbagi, Pierre Barrot, head of broadcasting cooperation projects at the International Organisation of Francophonie, the producer Yann Brolli, Nezha Drissi, director of the

The 14 titles nominated represent Germany (2), Spain (2), France (5), Greece (1), Iceland (1), Italy (1), Poland (1) the United Kingdom (1).

**For more information contact: Sergi Doladé, Director (+ 34 93 556 09 91) Fax: (+ 34 93 247 01 65), info@apimed.org, www.medimed.org
Mail: MEDIMED c/ Girona, 20, 5 planta, 08010 Barcelone, ESPAGNE.**

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STOP PRESS...

[# Mauritania / opening of broadcasting to private media companies](#)

[# Algeria / Call for audiovisual works to celebrate 50 years of Independence](#)

[#France / The Mediterranean of the “7 Sleepers” on show at Aubagne](#)



[# Mauritania / opening of broadcasting to private media companies](#)

In August Hamdy Ould Mahjoub, the Minister of Communication and Parliamentary Relations, announced Mauritanian broadcasting would be opened up – by mid-November at the latest. Now the Mauritanian *Haute Autorité de la Presse et de l'Audiovisuel* (HAPA) has launched a call for applications to run five private

television stations and five radio stations. At the moment the country has only two television channels (TVM and TVM Plus) and two radio stations, all state-run. A national broadcasting company will be created so that the future private companies operate in the same conditions. The cost of applying for a television company will be 500,000 ouguiyas (€1,250) and for a radio company 200,000 ouguiyas (€500).



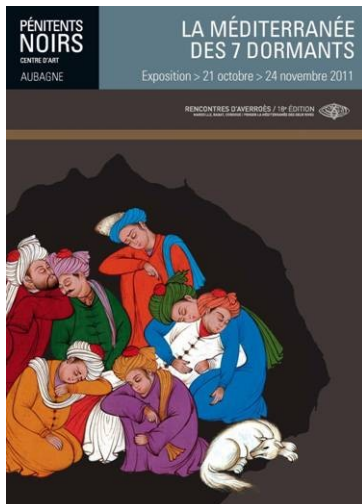
[# Algeria / Call for audiovisual works to celebrate 50 years of independence](#)

The Algerian minister of culture has launched an appeal for films and other audiovisual or theatrical works as part of the celebrations to mark 50 years of independence. The films must be between 52 and 70 minutes long, drama or

documentaries. The call is for any Algerian production company licensed to make films. The application files must be sent to the *Centre National de la Cinématographie et de l'Audiovisuel* (CNCA) in Algiers before October 31st 2011.

More information:

<http://www.m-culture.gov.dz/mc2/pdf/Appel%20projets%202012.pdf>



[#France / The Mediterranean of the “7 Sleepers” on show at Aubagne](#)

According to a legend common to both Christian and Islamic tradition, seven saints known as the “Seven Sleepers of Ephesus” slept for 200 years before miraculously waking up. How has this legend slept and then been woken around the Mediterranean? In his exhibition “The Mediterranean of the Seven Sleepers”, Manoël Pénicaud has created a journey in several stages, offering an exploration of a fragment of the “imaginary museum of the Mediterranean”. Visitors can discover current photographs and ancient documents (miniatures,

icons, calligraphy, archives...). A specially conceived sound track and video extracts enrich the experience. All these materials will then be used to make a web-documentary.

The exhibition will run from October 21st to November 24th at Aubagne's *Pénitents Noirs*, and is part of the *Rencontres d'Averroès*. More information:

<http://www.rencontresaverroes.net/Averroes2011/02SousLeSigneAV/exposition.htm>
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Translated from the French
by
Tim King