



N°122 February 2014

Two major events have marked the beginning of the CMCA's year.

On January 18th, to celebrate the Italian public broadcaster's anniversary, our association was invited by Rai to a private audience with **Pope Francis**. A solemn moment which took place at the Vatican, in the presence of Rai's 7,000 employees.

On Saturday January 25th, we filled the *Villa Méditerranée*: in partnership with Hope Productions and *France Télévisions*, the CMCA organised a preview of **Yann Arthus-Bertrand's** new documentary, "*Méditerranée, notre mer à tous*". A great success: 400 people came to see this film with its magnificent aerial images -- the Mediterranean as it has never been seen before!

In this first issue of 2014, we have an interview with **Yves Bigot**, the Director General of TV5MONDE, read about URTI, the oldest international broadcasting organisation, and keep up with Mediterranean broadcasting news: appointments in Tunisian and Algerian television, the announcement about the new Greek broadcasting company, NERIT, and much else in our usual columns.

Happy reading

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LIFE IN THE CMCA

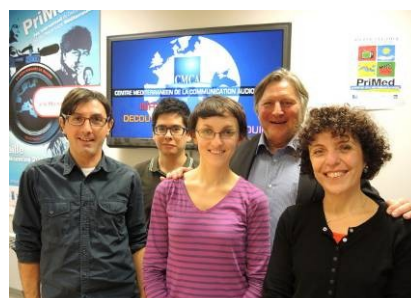
François Jacquel leaves the helm of the CMCA



Joining us to run the CMCA in March 2010, François Jacquel retired at the end of December 2013, after a career full of different experiences and important moments. He began as a reporter for France 3, helping to develop and create two of French television's flagship programmes – “*Thalassa*” and “*Faux pas rever*”: inquiring documentary series which he produced for 20 years.

Then, for nearly four years he worked for greater broadcasting cooperation in the Mediterranean, creating projects with the CMCA and its members, helping the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film to grow and become, under his direction, PriMed. It was he who thought up the [Semaine Audio-visuelle de la Méditerranée](#), the Mediterranean Broadcasting Week, an event organized during PriMed in June last year by *France Télévisions*, with its triumphant finale, the Music Festival, in front of nearly 100,000 people on the Le Vieux Port in Marseilles.

The Board of Directors and the entire CMCA team thank him for the enthusiasm and energy with which he carried the association during these few years, and wish him the very best for this new phase of his life...in Marseille.



François Jacquel with team CMCA



For Rai's anniversary – a private audience with Pope Francis

To celebrate 90 years of radio broadcasting and 60 years of television, RAI (Italian Radio and Television) invited top officials from European television companies and Euro-Mediterranean organizations to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican on January 18th. The CMCA was present for this major event.

On this occasion, Rai's chairperson, **Anna Maria Tarantola**, gave a speech. [Click here](#) to hear it, in French or English.



Screening of *Méditerranée, notre mer à tous*"
[A full house for the CMCA
and the Villa Méditerranée](#)

On January 25th, in partnership with France Télévisions and Hope Productions, the CMCA and the Villa Méditerranée held an exceptional preview of **Yann Arthus-Bertrand** and **Michaël Pitiot's** documentary "*Méditerranée, notre mer à tous*".

This major film, shown three days later during primetime on France 2 (3,966,000 viewers, an audience share of 14.7%) was enthusiastically received in a full house of 400 spectators.

The audience was clearly captivated by the wonderful aerial shots of the Mediterranean taken by Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Michaël Pitiot. Filmed in more than 15 countries, the documentary offers a unique view of landforms, cities and the people surrounding Mare Nostrum.

During a discussion at the end of the viewing, Michaël Pitiot confirmed that Hope Productions, the film's production company, hopes the film will be shown in several Mediterranean countries, starting with Italy and Libya. This would be an opportunity for Mediterranean peoples to see the 90-minute documentary in which they are the protagonists.

[Click here](#) to see video images of this preview.



New deadline: Tuesday April 15th 2014

**to register your documentaries, news films and multimedia works
for PriMed 2014**



PriMed – the International Award for Mediterranean Documentary and News Film – is open to all writers, directors, producers and broadcasters who, through their programmes or films, contribute to a better knowledge of the Mediterranean countries, from the Atlantic coast to the Black Sea.

The broadcasting films presented deal with culture, heritage, history, societies and the lives of men and women in Mediterranean countries.

They must contain no element of advertising or propaganda.

Nine Awards will be given to the films in competition.

There are also Broadcasting Awards given by representatives of television channels.

**[Click here to consult the rules of PriMed 2014
and download the registration form.](#)**

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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Tunisia : [New rules for filming in places of worship](#)

Greece: [Launch of NERIT scheduled for March](#)



Egypt / 20 Al Jazeera journalists before the Egyptian courts

On January 29th the Egyptian public prosecutor announced that 20 journalists from Al Jazeera, 16 of whom are Egyptian nationals, would be tried shortly.

The 16 Egyptians are accused of belonging to a “terrorist organization” and “undermining national unity and social peace”. They are accused of conniving with the Muslim Brotherhood. The 4 foreign journalists – two Britons, an Australian and a Dutchman – are being prosecuted for “collaborating with the Egyptians by providing information, equipment and money” and for “spreading false news and rumours by telling the outside world that the country was in civil war”.

The Cairo administrative court closed Al Jazeera’s Egypt bureau on September 3rd along with 4 other channels considered close to the Islamists.

(Sources : AFP, Le Monde, BBC)



Algeria / Broadcasting bill voted by Parliament

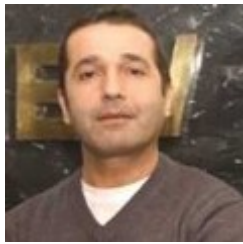
On January 20th the National Popular Assembly voted in favour of the bill to open up Algerian broadcasting to private channels. The bill must still be accepted by the Nation Council and receive the President’s signature.

It was during the Arab Spring nearly three years ago that President **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** promised to end the state monopoly on broadcasting. If the bill is finally passed that should now happen.

However, there are limitations: only so-called “themed” channels will have the right to be created, not “general interest” channels. Moreover, their news programmes, if they have them, will be subject to several constraints (authorization before-hand, an agreed duration per hour).

In 2013, the government granted temporary broadcasting licenses to three private channels (Echorouk TV, Ennahar TV and El Djazair TV). These have just been renewed for another year. Private radio stations, on the other hand, will not be able to transmit before 2017, according to the Minister of Communication, **Abdelkader Messahel**, claiming a “lack of frequencies”.

(Sources : Econostrum, El Watan)



[Algeria / New nominations at EPTV](#)

On January 7th **Mohamed Chermat** (photo) was appointed head of Canal Algeria, the only channel in the Algerian public television service to broadcast programmes in French. He has been the channel's editor since 2005 and succeeds **Rachid El Hadi**, who was dismissed after running Canal Algeria for 3 years.

Tewfik Khelladi, EPTV's CEO, also appointed **Amar Bourouis** to run the Arabic channel A3. Finally, **Nadir Boukabès** was appointed EPTV's Director of Information.

(Sources : TSA, Reporters.dz)



[Algeria / Agreement between Algerian public broadcasting and France Médias Monde](#)

On December 16th **Marie-Christine Saragosse**, head of *France Médias Monde*, was in Algiers to sign two cooperation agreements with the Algerian public broadcaster, together with **Chabane Lounakel**, head of Algerian Radio.

The first agreement concerns cooperation between RFI and *Monte Carlo Doualiya* on one side, and ENRS on the other, while the second cements a close collaboration between France 24 and EPTV.

These agreements centre on setting up co-productions, training, exchanges and technical assistance between the different parties. A first co-production has already been set-up between *Monte Carlo Doualiya* and *Radio Algérie Internationale* – since December they have been broadcasting a weekly programme of current affairs discussions. "*Paris / Alger Direct*".

(Sources : APS, LeMag.ma)



[Tunisia / Hichem Aissa acting CEO of Télévision Tunisienne](#)

Imen Bahroun is no longer running Tunisian Television. Submitted last September, her resignation was finally accepted on January 7th during a Board meeting and at the request of the former government leader, **Ali Larayedh** (two days before he himself resigned). Imen Bahroun had been in the job since August 2012, and was the only woman chair of a television company in the Arab world. The Director General of Al Wataniya 1, **Abdelaziz Touati**, also resigned on January 8th.

Stop press: On January 31st the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed that Hichem Aissa has been appointed Deputy Director General in charge of Tunisian Television, i.e. she will be acting CEO for a specified period. The new head of government, once elected, will appoint a CEO in consultation with the HAICA (*Haute Autorité Indépendante pour la Communication Audiovisuelle*).

(Source : communiqué, Business News)



[Tunisia / New rules for filming in places of worship](#)

Prior authorization from the Ministry of Religious Affairs is now required to film or record inside a place of worship in Tunisia. This was announced by the Minister concerned, **Noureddine Khademi**, in a statement on December 13th.

According to him, this decision is to *“organize and facilitate the work of the media within the framework of the law.”*

This is not the opinion of **Hichem Snoussi** a member of the HAICA (*Haute Autorité Indépendante pour la Communication Audiovisuelle*), who believes the government is trying to *“control the work of journalists”*.

Since the 2011 revolution, journalists and filmmakers have not needed government permission to film in religious sites.

(Sources : TAP, Ecofin)



[Greece / Launch of NERIT scheduled for March](#)

On January 19th the Minister for Culture, **Pantelis Kapsis** (photo), told the newspaper *To Vima* that the new Greek public television service, NERIT, would be launched in March. He added he would leave the government as soon as the service is transmitting smoothly and a full programme schedule has been established.

In January a tax was created to finance NERIT. €3 a month are now levied on electricity bills. The government hopes to raise €181 million in 2014, of which €101 million will be used to cover NERIT's operational costs.

At present the provisional channel EDT is still replacing ERT, which was closed by the government last June.

(Sources : *To Vima*, Greek Reporter)

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QUESTIONS FOR...

Yves BIGOT, Director General of **TV5MONDE**

Yves Bigot has been head of TV5MONDE since December 2012. Starting in 1973, his whole career has been spent in the media and music. He has been journalist, presenter, director, programmer and producer for television, radio and the written press. He has also held senior management positions in music companies (Fnac Music and Mercury), and been Director of Programmes (France2) and Channel and Programme Director (RTBF and Arte Belgium, Endemol and RTL). This month he talks to Jean- François Tealdi, exclusively for the CMCA.



Jean-François Téaldi : At the beginning of 2013 France Télévisions became the channel's majority shareholder, what does that change for you?

Yves Bigot: Technically, the chairman of France Télévisions now chairs the board of TV5MONDE and not the chairman of France Médias Monde. In practical terms this gives fluidity to our relations with all France Télévisions' channels (France 2, France 3, France 4, France 5, France Ô) on the one hand, and on the other, it takes advantage of the benefits of size when buying hardware, bandwidth etc.

J.-F. T.: Every Sunday on TV5MONDE, the programme «Maghreb-Orient Express" invites figures in the news in the Arab world. Is that a way to present a different vision of these countries?

Y. B. : The programme was created by my predecessor at the head of TV5MONDE, **Marie-Christine Saragosse**. It was part of the movement known as "The Arab Spring", allowing young people, artists and creators from this part of the world to have their say, to talk about their hopes, their opinion about the upheavals of the planet but also of their region, to share their talent and vitality, their contribution to the economic development of their countries, to the changing attitudes, to a modernity which sometimes ignores those who are not immediately visible. The magazine lets us meet these people.

J.-F. T Your collaboration with RFI every Sunday for "Internationales" means a person at the heart of the news can express themselves on both television and radio. An exemplary synergy between different media.

Y. B. : The synergy between TV5MONDE and the rest of France Médias Monde (France 24, RFI and Monte Carlo Doualiya) is very important for me, for us, as guardians of the French language. The link with RFI and Le Monde for "Internationale" is indeed exemplary in that it allows three different media to provide maximum resonance and visibility for the very varied figures "International" receives – from the President of Burkina Faso **Blaise Compaoré** to the head of Renault **Carlos Ghosn**, or the French Finance Minister **Pierre Moscovici**. It's not the only type of

partnership we are developing with *France Médias Monde*: in 2013 we had two joint interviews the French President **François Hollande** (TV5MONDE, France 24 and RFI), we signed a partnership agreement in Bucharest between TV5MONDE and RFI Romania. Every Sunday morning **Denise Epoté**, our Africa director, has a very popular spot on RFI.

JF T. : We know southern countries are victims of practices which jeopardize their territories, with “Coup de pouce pour la planète” you’re also helping audiences to be more aware of the principal actors and factors behind sustainable development.

Y. B. : Yes, in February 2013, TV5MONDE drew up an editorial charter listing 12 values which our channels transmit. Development and the environment are part of those and should not be seen as antagonistic, for the well-being of people in developing countries. Despite the difficulties we hope to help make them compatible.

JF T. : In the weekly “Destination Francophonie” you show us people who make French a living language, you help spread *la Francophonie* across the world.

Y. B. : Promoting and developing the French language is one of our missions. We do it in different ways. Our programmes are all in French, but with our different subtitles – French, English, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian – we make them accessible for everyone, from people learning French to people who love France but don’t speak the language. We’ve also developed different programmes so that everyone learning our language, as a beginner or to perfect it, can do so in a way which is effective, simple and fun. “*Apprendre et enseigner le français*”, “*Parler français, c’est facile*” are very popular.



JF T. : Last October you launched “64’ : le monde en français” the first daily French-language news programme which shows international news from the French perspective, offering different opinions from the dominant Anglo-Saxon channels. A news programme which provides a different view of the world around us.

Y. B. : “64’ : le monde en français” is the expression of the multilateral DNA of TV5MONDE, a French cultural channel. This unique news programme is put together by the TV5MONDE news staff and teams from France 2, France 3, RTS, RTBF and Radio-Canada, giving a cross-cultural and rich perspective on the world, a diverse, varied, balanced and different point of view. A lot of time is devoted to the “*Fait du jour*”, to “*La Une Francophone*”, 13 minutes of “*Grand Angle*” to Patrick Simonin’s “*L’Invité*”, with a daily slot for culture and the economy. Globalization and its consequences seen through French eyes, awareness and values.

J.-F. T. : How much emphasis is there on the Mediterranean on TV5MONDE? Is that likely to increase?

Y. B.: TV5MONDE devotes three of its eight channels to the Mediterranean world: TV5MONDE France-Belgium-Switzerland, TV5MONDE Europe and TV5MONDE Maghreb-Orient. That says it all. And our programmes are subtitled in the languages spoken round the rim of the Mediterranean: Spanish, French, Romanian, Russian, Arabic and even Portuguese. In the near future we plan to add Turkish. For the south and east of this region we have a weekly 26-minute magazine, “Maghreb Orient Express” presented by **Mohamed Kaci**, and regularly we do reports on all of our channels of cultural, political and social events in the Lebanon, Romania, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, countries where we are partners in many cultural events, festivals, exhibitions... And we have just signed a global partnership agreement with the *Institut du Monde Arabe* in Paris

J.-F. T. : What does the CMCA bring to TV5MONDE?

Y. B. : The CMCA provides a regular opportunity to share with our Mediterranean colleagues, to consider all types of potential collaborations and to exchange programmes. **Rémy Pflimlin**, chairman of *France Télévisions*, brought us together for two days of exciting exchanges last June in Marseille, while it was European Capital of Culture. And **Magdi Ghoneim**, head of TV5MONDE Maghreb-Orient is in regular contact with the CMCA and his colleagues from Mediterranean television companies.



J.-F. T. : In the 2013 PriMed, TV5MONDE sponsored the Broadcasting Award given to Gabriel Le Bomin and Benjamin Stora’s “Guerre d’Algérie, la déchirure (photo)”, a film which looks back at this painful episode in our history. Why did you choose it for a Broadcasting Award?

Y. B. : Just to emphasize the effect, the impact, which a particular film has when it is shown to the public: the emotion it can cause among our viewers, which was the case with this remarkable, very balanced documentary about the Algerian War, its horrors and heartbreak , its human dramas ...

JF T. : Are all the documentaries shown at PriMed taken up by TV5MONDE ?

Y. B. : Some, unfortunately not all: sometimes because of copyright problems and also because by our nature, we focus on programmes in French. •

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PROGRAMMES

Egypt	Bassem Youssef comes back on another channel
Italy	Rai adapts the Spanish series "Gran Hotel"
France	The contents of February's "Mediterraneo"



Egypt / Bassem Youssef comes back on another channel

On November 1st last year “*Al Bernameg*”, **Bassem Youssef**’s satirical programme on CBC, was suspended (see [Méditerranée Audiovisuelle n°120](#)). But now Bassem Youssef has found a new operating base. In late December he signed a contract with the private channel MBC Misr, which hopes to start broadcasting the programme in February. The contract between CBC and QSoft, the programme’s production company, was broken after CBC accused the comedian and his producers of violating the terms of engagement.

Bassem Youssef is still targeted by the Egyptian courts, since several supporters of President **Abdelfatah Al-Sisi** filed a complaint last October for “*insulting the army*”, “*inciting chaos*” and “*threatening national security*”.

(Sources : Al Ahram, Primemag)



Italy / Rai adapts the Spanish series “Gran Hotel”

Italian public television has acquired the rights to an adaptation of the Spanish drama series “*Gran Hotel*”, on air since 2011 on the private channel Antena 3.

The 39 episodes of this series are set in a prestigious hotel where a young man investigates his sister’s mysterious disappearance.

This is the first time that the drama series produced by *Bambu Producciones* has been adapted for another country. Nevertheless, it has already been widely shown – in France, Turkey, Germany and the United States. A ratings success in Spain, it has also been praised by critics and professionals, receiving many national awards.

According to the Vanitatis web-site, Rai might also be interested in an adaptation of Antena 3’s new series “*Galerías Velvet*”, which is scheduled to be shown on the small screen in Spain this February or March.

(Sources : VerTele, Vanitatis)



[France / The Contents of February's "Mediterraneo"](#)

The crisis in Coimbra: Portugal is getting over the worst of the crisis, but since the start of the international bailout in May 2011 the Troika has imposed unprecedented austerity measures on the country. Every strata of society is affected. Coimbra, Portugal's third largest city, has seen the emergence of angry pensioners calling themselves the "Grey Hair Movement" (photo). The town also has a large student population finding it increasingly difficult to find accommodation.

Resumption of Greek tourism: In Greece, tourism accounts for 20% of GDP, or rather it used to, for since the beginning of the economic crisis, the sector has been in freefall. But since last summer, recovery seems to be underway. 2013 has been an exceptional year, not only in the islands but also in Athens whose restless social climate had long put off tourists.

Protest in Turkey: At the end of May 2013, a protest movement began in Istanbul against the destruction of Gezi park next to Taksim Square. Within days the movement had spread to other Turkish cities. The main gathering place, Taksim Square, remains the symbol of protest in the country.

The Lebanese Civil War: 1975-1989 : the war in Lebanon lasted 15 years, but in peoples' minds nothing is finished and at the national level no work on memory has been undertaken. Today, the Lebanese have decided to revive the memory of the civil war, to explain it to the young generation so that past mistakes don't reoccur.

Algeria and Rabbia Mokkadem: The TV series on France2, "Aicha", revealed her to the French public. The actress **Rabbia Mokka-dem** lives in Marseille, but remains faithful to her Algerian roots. Every year she returns to her native village, west of Oran. Algeria and this dual culture has been the inspiration for her roles.

Eni's Data Centre: Environment and energy savings are vital in the Italian oil company Eni's new centre for computer data processing. After three years work, the centre has just opened in the middle of rice fields in the Pavia region. It is the largest data centre in Europe and one of the most modern in the world.



Memories of Francoism in Valencia: A visit to Valencia, Spain, to discuss, once again, bad memories. Franco's prisoners, imprisoned in the former monastery of *San Miguel de los Reyes*, 6 centuries old and which now houses the Valencia library.

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CLOSE UP ON...

URTI

(Union Radiophonique et Télévisuelle Internationale)

Every month, Méditerranée Audiovisuelle presents a portrait of a CMCA member. Presentation, organisation, key strategies ... This month, close up on URTI.



Founded in 1949, the International Union for Radio and Television was the first and is the oldest international broadcasting organization, but also the only one with a global vocation. A professional union, it has the status of Association with UNESCO, which has accompanied URTI since its inception. Its role is to organise exchanges of television and radio programmes, co-productions and workshops. It also sponsors internationally renowned broadcasting awards, with 86 countries represented last year.

Its members

URTI has adopted **three official languages** (Arabic, English and French), but programme exchange takes place in all languages. The Union consists of **65 radio and television organizations** (mainly from the Arab World, Africa, Eastern and Western Europe as well as Vietnam and Brazil) which are particularly interested in developing international programme exchange. At the 65th AGM, held in October 2013 at the headquarters of *France Télévisions*, **three new members** joined the Union: Bulgarian National Television, Radio Mauritania and Rwanda's TV10 & Radio10. Today URTI wants to develop primarily in Anglophone Africa, Asia (VOV / VTV Vietnam is the first member) and Latin America (Brazil's EBC is the first member).

Its positioning

URTI is an organization of truly **multilateral** cooperation. Each broadcaster can take part in the Union's governance and in any of its various activities. Thus URTI has created a new market for southern broadcast programmes not only by promoting them, but also by getting them shown internationally.

A catalogue of 5,000 programmes

URTI's broadcast catalogue, the largest in the world, offers more than 5,000 TV programmes (mostly documentaries) free of rights for its members. The Television Committee, which met in Timisoara last November at the invitation of Romanian Television, has selected over 1,000 new programmes for the 2014 catalogue. URTI members thus realise significant savings by accessing many quality programmes free of charge.

The web-site: urti.org

Cooperation between URTI's radio members is optimized thanks to the particularly innovative **Web platform "ECT"** that offers them free ways of sharing, co-producing and transmitting their own programmes internally. URTI's television members can view excerpts of programmes from the catalogue and place their orders online.

Its partners

URTI is supported by major international broadcasting organizations (UER, ABU, AIBD, ASBU, UNESCO, OIF, ONU, CICR, CIRTEF, COPEAM, CMCA, UAR, RAPAF, ATI, OTEI). During its 65th AGM it also signed a cooperation agreement with the IBU (Islamic Broadcasting Union).

The URTI Grand Prix

In 2014 URTI will celebrate its **33rd URTI International Grand Prix for Creative TV Documentary** (registration open until March 21st 2014) as part of the 54th Monte-Carlo Television Festival, and its **26th URTI International Radio Grand Prix** (registration is open until September 5th 2014, with the theme "War"). For each of these two competitions, ten programmes will be chosen as finalists. This automatically gives them international promotion to help sell their rights. The awards are given to four programmes. Information and online registration are available at urti.org (click on "Grand Prix").



***The 2012 URTI Grand Prix jury for the Creative Documentary Award
Claude Lelouch, chairman of the Jury***

Its projects

URTI has recognized expertise in new broadcasting technologies and has just won the 20th Information Highway Fund OIF with its project "**FRANCO-Phonie 3.0**" for an interactive and multimedia internet platform which will offer interactive radio content to young French-speaking audiences. Six public radio stations – in Africa (Cameroon and Senegal), the Arab World (Morocco and Tunisia) and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria and Romania) – will work together on this project to create new methods of participatory production to attract young people to radio by using new digital tools.

The URTI project "**From state media to public media: a citizens' revolution**" was recently screened as part of the call for proposals "*EuropeAid / Media and culture, two major vectors for development in the Southern Mediterranean*". It's a **training project, TV / Radio / Web coproduction and communication** aimed at helping public broadcasters in Algeria (EPTV), Egypt (ERTU), Libya (LNC), Morocco (SNRT), the occupied Palestinian Territories (PBC) and Tunisia

(Tunisian Radio and Television). Many European public broadcasters are behind this project: SRR (Romanian Radio), RTBF (Radio Télévision Belge), RTP (Radio Television of Portugal), TVR (Romanian Television), FMM (France Médias Monde) RAI (Radiotelevisione Italiana). International organizations including UNESCO, NGOs and associations active in the field of human rights have also formally associated.



URTI has helped set up the **International Committee of World Radio Day**, made up of thirteen main broadcasting and telecommunications organizations, to organize celebrations for the second **World Radio Day (February 13th 2014)** announced by UNESCO and endorsed by the UN. URTI was also responsible for creating the official wrd13.com web-site launched last December by a committee at the ASBU's AGM. Many

international radio stations have already expressed their support by pledging to promote it on their channels and websites. Listeners are invited to go now to wrd13.com to leave an audio message in any language. These messages will be downloaded by radio stations worldwide and then broadcast on their channels and sites throughout February 13th 2014 to celebrate radio. [Click here](#) to find the press releases about the World Radio Day.

Its senior management

- **Alain Massé**, Director General (amasse@urti.org)
- **Faissal Assoumani**, Broadcasting technicien (fassoumani@urti.org)
- **Fabienne Dobo**, Head of Television (fdobo@urti.org)
- **Feten Fradi**, Head of Development (ffradi@urti.org)
- **Sara Lacomba**, Head of Web and Radio (slacomba@urti.org)
- **Nathalie Lacroix**, Head of Events and Awards (nlacroix@urti.org)

URTI's 66th AGM was held on Monday February 10th 2014 as part of the *Salon de la Radio* in Paris. More information is available at <http://www.urti.org/ag>.

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ECONOMY

France	<u>Canal Plus' purchase of D8 and D17 in doubt</u>
Israel	<u>Waltz of the investors in private channels</u>
Italy	<u>Mediaset wants to regroup its activities</u>
Spain	<u>Uncertain future for the Vértice 360° group</u>



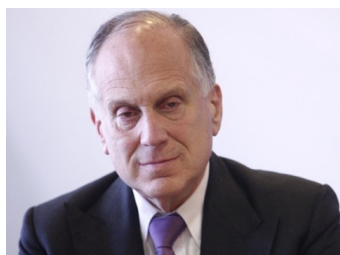
[France / Canal Plus' purchase of D8 and D17 in doubt](#)

In 2012 Canal Plus bought two free channels, D8 and D17, from the Bolloré group. However, at the end of December 2013 this acquisition was challenged by competing channels TF1 and M6. They have asked the State Council to examine the transaction, claiming the Competition Authority committed a procedural error when making their decision. Having these channels would give Canal Plus a kind of monopoly on the unscrambled retransmission of French films.

Canal Plus has not been slow to revise its copy, and on January 21st presented the Competition Authority with a notice in which the group makes new commitments. According to the Authority, *"the commitment relative to the purchase of recent French films has been [...] reviewed so that its perimeter takes into account the second and third windows of free distribution."*

The Competition Authority must now consult the CSA and ARCEP, before giving an opinion in early February.

(Sources : Reuters, Le Monde, Les Echos)



[Israel / Waltz of the investors in private channels](#)

On December 18th the American businessman **Ronald Lauder** (pictured) sold all his shares in the private Channel 10. A portion was given to the businessman **Yossi Maiman**, who is now majority shareholder with 51% of the channel's capital.

Before finally withdrawing from Channel 10, Ronald Lauder paid the channel's debt, which amounted to €4 million. In 2013, he had already invested more than €35 million in an attempt to redress the company's situation.

Since December 23rd the country's other private channel, Channel 2, has also had a new investor: paying just over €20 million, the Dutch group Endemol ("Big Brother") has acquired 33% of Reshet, the company which produces most of Channel 2's programmes.

(Sources : TBI, Haaretz, Israel Valley, JTA, Times of Israel)



[Italy / Mediaset wants to regroup its activities](#)

On December 18th Mediaset announced it was studying a possible restructuring of its activities.

The company, whose vice-chairman is **Pier Silvio Berlusconi**, intends to bring together in one company Mediaset Premium, its Italian pay television subsidiary, and the 22 % it owns in Digital Plus (Spanish pay TV).

Mediaset Premium is currently in deficit. Despite its two million subscribers, it faces tough competition in the pay-television market from Sky Italia (4.5 million subscribers).

The group is therefore seeking new partners to put capital into the new company. According to Advanced Television, Telefonica, Al Jazeera, RTL, Canal Plus and several investment funds have been approached.

These rumours have in any case boosted Mediaset's share-price, which gained 27% between mid-December and mid-January, bringing the group's capital to €900 million.

(Sources : VerTele, Les Echos, Advanced Television)



[Spain / Uncertain future for the Vértice 360° group](#)

On December 12th the board of the Spanish broadcasting group Vertice 360 decided to ask for the company to be placed in receivership.

This procedure should give the group an extra four months to try to improve its financial health. In fact in the first three quarters of 2013 the company lost more than €61 million, its debt now amounting to €12 million.

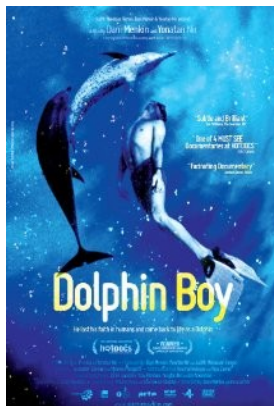
The group's share-value dropped 50% between early 2013 and early 2014. On January 8th it fell further, losing nearly 32%.

In addition to managing film sales, Vertice 360°, is also involved in the production of documentaries and television programmes.

(Sources : El Pais, El Economista)

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CINEMA



United States / Disney adapts the Israeli documentary “Dolphin Boy”

Walt Disney Pictures has started production of an animated film adapted from the documentary “Dolphin Boy” made by Israelis **Yonatan Nir** and **Dani Menkin**.

Winning awards at the Antibes Festival *Mediterranea*, at Jerusalem and at Woodstock, “Dolphin Boy” is about Morad, an adolescent from an Arab village in northern Israel and his 4 years in therapy. He was traumatised and disconnected from reality after being severely beaten up – to such a point that he did not speak. Following the

failure of psychotherapeutic treatment, his father decides to try dolphin therapy on the shores of the Red Sea. In contact with dolphins, Morad gradually begins to speak again and regain his interest in life.

“Dolphin Boy” has been developed as part of the Greenhouse project, supported by the European Union. The American adaptation has been given to script-writer **Justin Zackham** and to the production company Mandeville Films.

(Source : ENPI)



Morocco / Werner Herzog and Nicole Kidman bring Gertrude Bell back to life

Since late December German director **Werner Herzog** has been filming his long-standing project about **Gertrude Bell** (photo). The first scenes were shot at Merzouga in south eastern Morocco, bordering the Sahara. Other locations will be in Jordan and London.

With a cast including **Nicole Kidman**, **James Franco** and **Robert Pattinson**, Herzog returns to the life of this mysterious English diplomat of the early 20th century, who visited the Middle East to defend British interests. Co-produced by the Moroccan H Films, “Queen of the Desert” probably won’t be released until 2015.

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FESTIVALS

FESTIVAL OF THE MONTH

!F, 13th International Festival of Independent Film,
in Istanbul and 31 other towns, from February 13th to March 2nd 2014



Created in 2001, Istanbul's festival !f welcomes 70,000 spectators every year in Turkey's 3 largest cities. It aims to show an informed selection of the best contemporary independent films.

Created in 2008, the festival's main competitive category, !f Inspired, is for emerging filmmakers. An award of \$15,000 (€11,000) is given to "the most inspired Director". Brazilian director **Kleber Mendonça Filho** was the winner in 2013 with his film "Neighbouring Sounds".

Other awards for films in the festival include one presented by Turkish film critics and another for Turkish short films.

Although the main part of the festival and the awards ceremony (February 23rd) take place in Istanbul !f goes to other towns. During the final 3 days of the festival, a selection of films is screened simultaneously in Istanbul and 31 other towns – in Turkey (Ankara, Izmir), Cyprus, Armenia and the Palestinian Territories.

[Click here](#) to consult the whole festival programme.

**Find the list of all the February festivals
on our web-site:**

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

OTHER FESTIVALS



Morocco / Controversial films at the Tangiers Festival

The 15th Tangier National Film Festival runs from February 7th to 15th. Two juries, one chaired by the academic **Abdallah Saaf**, the other by director **Abdou Achouba**, have the task of choosing the best Moroccan feature films and short films in the competition.

Among this year's films, several arrive preceded by a considerable reputation: **Laila Marrakchi's** "Rock The Casbah", "Fièvres" by **Hicham Ayouch**, and above all **Abdallah Taïa's** "L'armée du salut" – a film about male homosexuality, adapted from the director's own novel. Having won an award at the Geneva Festival and been selected for Venice and Toronto, it's the first time "L'armée du salut" will be shown in Morocco, where homosexuality is still illegal.

The 2013 Tangier National Film Festival was marked by **Nour Eddine Lakhmari's** film "Zéro", and the boycott of the Minister of Communication, who was opposed to the screening of **Kamal Hachkar's** documentary "Tinghir-Jérusalem, Les échos du Mellah", which nevertheless won the award for Best First Film.

[Click here](#) for the complete festival programme.

(Sources : Yabiladi, Marocains du Monde)



France / First documentary films are shown at Aix

The festival *La première Foix*, organised each year at Aix-en-Provence and in the surrounding countryside, celebrates its 5th edition. About twenty first documentaries will be shown from February 11th to 15th. The director **Henri-François Imbert** ("Le temps des amoureuses") is guest of honour and will be there to talk to the public and show two of his films.

Also, a free hand has been given to Fidé (*Festival International du Documentaire Etudiant*) which has put together a selection of short documentaries.

[Click here](#) to consult the complete festival programme.

Calls for candidates

[Cartoons On The Bay](#) – Deadline: February 15th

[Cabriolet Film Festival](#) – Deadline: April 1st

[PriMed](#) – Deadline: April 15th

[Festival International du Film Archéologique](#) – Deadline: April 15th

[Festimaj](#) – Deadline: April 15th

[San Sebastian Festival](#) – Deadline: July 16th

WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH

CIMA

(www.cimamujerescineastas.es)



CIMA is a Spanish association of more than 200 women working in broadcasting. Through its various projects, it campaigns for women to be better represented in the broadcasting industry, based on the fact that only 20 % of films produced in Spain have at least one woman in the direction, production or writing departments.

As well as a description of CIMA's various fields of action, the Association's website offers a news digest about women and film, both nationally and internationally. Editorials written by recognized women professionals are also put on line regularly, analyzing the work of women directors, the different facets of everyday sexism, or the place of women in film.

There is also a video channel, CIMA TV, on the site, which shows trailers, recordings of lectures, short films and interviews. Finally, a section of classified ads allows you to get in touch with women broadcasting, whether they are looking for projects or collaborators.

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



Turkey / CFI to open a centre for Syrian journalists

In April, *Canal France International* (CFI) plans to open the Syrian Media Incubator, a work centre providing Syrian journalists with telecommunication tools. It will be at Gaziantep, on the Turkish side of the border with Syria.

The construction of the centre, for a total cost of €1.5 million, was funded thanks to a contract with the European Union. A second contract signed between CFI and the EU provides for projects to develop online information in the southern Mediterranean region. There should be a call for proposals on this topic in May.



France / A writing workshop in Marseille for Spanish residents

The famous *Cité Radieuse*, **Le Corbusier's** iconic building in Marseille, will host a screenwriting residential workshop for people living or working in Spain. The project is being organised by the City of Marseille and *Horizontes del Sur*, the association which puts on the Marseille Festival of Spanish Cinema.

From October 20th to November 20th, Spanish residents, regardless of their nationality, with projects for feature films, will come together to meet people involved in Marseille's cultural scene, and Spanish directors.

Projects must be written in French and Spanish, and be linked in some way with Marseille.

Applications are open until February 20th. [Click here](#) to consult all the information about the application dossier.



France / The Fonds Francophone calls for “television” projects

The television committee of the Fund for French-language Broadcasting Production in Southern Countries has launched several calls for projects. The first offers financial aid to produce a documentary about dialogue between cultures and religions and is open to southern-based French-speakers with a 52 minute project. This year the Fund is also giving financial aid to produce one-off documentaries. Finally, the last call of interest for the French-speaking Mediterranean region is a “financial aid to complete” package. For all these appeals, applications must be submitted between February 15th and 28th.

[Click here](#) to consult the rules and obtain additional information.

Translated from the French by Tim KING