

tion to present its exhibition at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, from September 26 to October 12. During this period, both the Council of Europe and the European Parliament will meet in this impressive building, situated in a park area near the centre of the Alsatian capital. This exhibition will not be open to the public, but it is expected that it will be visited by about 4000 delegates, media representatives and staff.

Next, ESO will show its face in the second-largest city of Portugal, Porto. The exhibition opens late September in the old steel-and-glass market hall which has recently been transformed into a perfect exhibition site. ESO's presence in Portugal is particularly timely in view of the current efforts to establish closer contacts between Portuguese astronomy and ESO. In mid-November, the exhibition will move on to the capital, Lisboa, where it is expected to stay until the end of the current year. Further information may be obtained from Prof. Teresa Lago, Grupo de Matematica Aplicada, Faculdade de Ciencias, Universidade do Porto, Rue das Taipas 135, P-4000 Porto.

Future exhibition sites include cities in Austria, Norway and Spain, as well as in South America; announcements of dates and sites will be made in the next issues of the *Messenger*.

12th European Regional Astronomy Meeting of the IAU

The preparations for this meeting (see the announcement in *Messenger* 59, p. 25) are proceeding well and the organizers expect a large influx of European astronomers from all geographical areas of the continent. The meeting will start in Davos Kongresszentrum (Switzerland) in the early afternoon of Monday, October 8, 1990 and end around noon on Thursday, October 11, in order to facilitate travel on these days.

All prospective participants who have not already done so, are urged to contact soonest the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee at the following address:

Professor Dr. U.W. Steinlin
Astronomisches Institut der Universität Basel
Venusstrasse 7
CH-4102 Binningen
Switzerland

or by email: EARN: SCHWENGLER@URZ.UNIBAS.CH;
SPAN: CHGATE::YOGI::SCHWENGLER.

Correspondence concerning the scientific organization should be directed to the Chairman of the Scientific Organizing Committee:

Professor Dr. L. Woltjer
Observatoire de Haute-Provence
F-04870 St-Michel l'Observatoire
France

Calendar:

July 15	Registration form to Dr. Steinlin Hotel reservation to Davos Tourist Office
Aug. 15	Abstracts of papers to Dr. Woltjer Fees must be paid to meeting account
Sept. 15	Third Circular with Final Programme
Oct. 8	Meeting opens in Davos: abstract book available

New Videos from ESO

Three new video films have recently become available from ESO:

- "Window to the Universe": A film about ESO made by the BBC. 24 min. Available in English, French, German and Italian.
- "The First NTT Images": A presentation of the first images from the NTT, obtained during the commissioning phase; made by the ESO Information Service. 9 min. Only available in English.
- "The NTT Inauguration": A summary of the main events and speeches during the inauguration of the NTT on February 6, 1990, in Garching and at La Silla. 24 min. Only available in English.

The videos are available on VHS, S-VHS, MII and Betacam on two cassettes; one with "Window to the Universe", while "First Images" and "NTT Inauguration" are on a common cassette. The price per cassette is 70.- DM. Orders should be placed with the ESO Information Service (address on last page). Please note that the delivery time will be about 4 weeks.

European Group of Astronomical Librarians (EGAL)

In July 1988 IAU Colloquium 110, entitled "Library and Information Services in Astronomy" was held in Washington D.C. This was attended by 120 people from 26 different countries, including several European librarians, most of whom met each other for the first time. Inspired by the stimulating talks and discussions, and the desire to transmit the "spirit of Washington" to other colleagues who were not able to attend, the idea of EGAL was born during the closing stages of the meeting.

On our return Suzanne Laloë (Institut d'Astrophysique, Paris) and myself distributed a report of the meeting together with a letter proposing the formation of an informal group of European librarians working in astronomical observatories and institutes. The response was encouraging and we decided to go ahead with our basic idea of distributing a newsletter 2 or 3 times a year and publishing a directory of names and addresses, telephone, telex, telefax numbers and e-mail addresses, plus a brief

description of each library. The main aim is to foster informal cooperation and communication between librarians in all European countries, with a special emphasis on strengthening and improving links with our Eastern European colleagues. The possibility of also acting as a pressure group, for instance when problems with publishers or suppliers occur, is not excluded.

Initially about 70 librarians were contacted and replies were received from about 40. The first EGAL Bulletin, No. 0, a trial number, was mailed in May 1989 to all the librarians on our original mailing list. This brought in some more replies and we compiled the first version of the Directory. This was distributed, together with EGAL Bulletin No. 1, in October 1989, again to all the persons on our original list. It is hoped that EGAL Bulletin will become a forum for news, opinions, descriptions of libraries and routines, queries for help and information. Many observatory and institute libraries are relatively small and isolated.