

Dear participants, Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you here today and to extend a further word of welcome and thanks to the speakers and all the colleagues who organized this Training Seminar for European Documentation Centres.

The Central Library of the Commission has an important role to play as reference library for the EDC network as it is the 'institutional memory' of the European Commission and holds a unique collection of resources related to European integration.

The Central Library was established in 1958, just a few months after the establishment of the European Economic Community. Since then, its collections have developed to provide both an historical and a contemporary vision of European integration. Excellence, innovation and professionalism are our aims, as we continually improve the services on offer to our users.

The Central Library has an important and central role to play, within the Commission, within the EU institutions and as your

partner library. By making its collections available to all through its online catalogue and by admitting external visitors, the Central Library makes an important contribution to a better awareness of European integration, as you do in your respective countries.

In addition to the access to its reading rooms, the Central Library offers access to EU documents and full-text publications through the [ECLAS](#) online catalogue and to a number of additional services through its website on [EUROPA](#): a Virtual Reference Collection with a selection of quality websites and search tools, freely available on the Internet and regularly updated by our librarians; a list of selected articles on European and international matters from the periodicals to which the Library subscribes as well as selected bibliographies and a fully-fledged interlibrary loan service.

The Central Library is available to provide you with assistance and help with search in ECLAS and EU databases and with replies to your bibliographic enquiries.

As any other library, The Central Library is faced with many challenges today, as new technologies and users' expectations develop so rapidly. We have recognised these challenges and are doing all we can to meet and anticipate them.

I would like to invite you to make full use of all our services and would like to thank you for being here today to share with us your experiences and thoughts to reinforce our collaboration in the future. I trust you will make the most of this morning programme.

Roberta PERSICHELLI  
Head of EC Central Library

<http://ec.europa.eu/libraries/>

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