

becoming more and more marked as the commercial sector reassesses its strategies in the prospect and light of 1992. The voluntary sector should do likewise if it aspires to avoid being increasingly left out of the decision-making process. ECAS will provide a focal point for NGOs and INGOs (international nongovernmental organizations) in their dealings with EC Institutions, and will help them to overcome the national handicaps that deter them from having an effective 'presence' in Brussels.

The future of the voluntary sector lies with those organizations which have strong European links, and, as 1992 approaches, involvement with EC institutions and issues can no longer be regarded as an optional extra. The voluntary sector is increasingly affected by EC legislation, and if NGOs wish to be consulted on matters which concern them, then they need an effective representation in Brussels.

ECAS does not set out to replace existing NGOs, but rather to offer them a service. It will be a 'consultancy' for the voluntary sector, responding flexibly to the needs of its subscribers and encouraging, wherever possible, direct contacts between NGOs and EC. It will have a small, mainly Brussels-based, board of directors and an advisory council which will be as representative as possible of EC countries and of the interests of its subscribers. Subscribers will pay a basic subscription *plus* the cost of any additional services used. There will also be founder subscribers who will have considerable input

into the advisory council in return for helping ECAS to become established.

ECAS hopes to serve European, international, national, and regional, non-governmental organizations that are independent at once of governments, political parties, and commercial interests. It will provide a range of services, including a basic information and documentation centre, regular briefings about EC activities, reports on issues of common concern to a number of NGOs, office facilities, and briefings for visiting subscriber organizations.

Other services will be offered in accordance with demand: monitoring the work of EC institutions, providing lobbying advice to individual organizations, arranging translation and interpretation services for Brussels meetings, assisting with fund-raising at EC, advising on cooperation with NGOs in other EC countries, providing a 'watching brief' in Brussels, providing legal advice, encouraging the setting up of European public-interest groups, and facilitating European campaigns.

ECAS is currently contacting thousands of NGOs in EC and other European countries, to assess their particular requirements. If you think your organization might be interested in such a service, then more information may be obtained from:

ANTHONY VENABLES  
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1040 Bruxelles  
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### WWF\* Launches Feature Service

In an attempt to meet the growing demand for top-level environmental reporting, WWF has launched a global feature service. Produced by the *WWF News* editorial team, the WWF Feature Service circulars are being sent to major newspapers, magazines, news broadcasters, and film-makers, around the world. WWF's Feature Service provides editors and broadcasters with the latest information available on the critical environmental issues of the day — including tropical forests, wetlands, biological diversity, climate change, pollution, waste management, and energy conservation.

In a pilot series, Donald Allan reports on the death of Barbara D'Achille, a prize-winning environmental journalist, who was killed by 'Shining Path' guerillas while she was on an assignment in the Peruvian Andes. Peter Jackson, Reuters' correspondent in India for nearly 20 years, exposes the violent clashes between rival factions in northeastern India's Assam State that have turned an important Tiger Reserve and World Heritage Site into a battleground. Also in this set of Features, coral-reef

expert Susan Wells reveals that a recent survey shows how 93 of the 103 countries with significant coral communities are suffering from reef damage. Known as the 'tropical forests of the ocean' for their rich biological diversity, coral reefs are disappearing at an alarming rate.

WWF encourages editors and broadcasters to use the Features in their publications and in news reports. Journalists and announcers may also adapt WWF Features to meet their local news needs, and are invited to request additional information, schedule interviews with WWF representatives, and use the graphics that are provided with each set of Features. Journalists who wish to report on WWF activities are also welcome to submit proposals for the Feature Service. Editors and journalists are requested to send press clippings of published features or to notify the Feature Service of broadcast use. Further information may be obtained from the undersigned (Telephone (022) 64 92 22):

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WWF Features  
WWF International  
Avenue du Mont-Blanc  
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\* WWF continues to be known as World Wildlife Fund in Australia, Canada, and the United States of America; in other countries it is now the World Wide Fund For Nature.

### EuroSolar Association

Introducing EuroSolar, the Association for the Solar Energy Era, '... I do view the energy problem ... as an extensive political, economic, and social, problem existing on a global scale. Mankind has no alternative but to turn to solar energy. ... Solar-energy management must be implemented without delay and as widely as possible ... An abstract consensus already exists in favour of solar energy ... Converting this into a concrete, effective consensus is one of the main tasks of this Association'.

These were the buoyant words of Dr Hermann Scheer, the West German MP who is Chairman of EuroSolar, in his keynote speech to the organization's foundation assembly in Bonn, West Germany, in August 1988. The organization's aim is to do everything in its power to ensure that the world's energy supply is switched away from fossil fuels and over to inexhaustible sources of energy — such as solar energy, wind and hydraulic power, and hydrogen produced by means of solar energy.