

On the road to Copenhagen



As this December's international conference on climate change in Copenhagen approaches, public interest in climate change will grow. The European Commission will therefore be using the platform of this year's MIPCOM to preview three new co-productions involving leading European producers and broadcasters, with the support of the European Commission DG Research.

The special event at Auditorium J on Tuesday, October 6, at 4.30 p.m. will feature presentations of Thierry Ragobert and Michel Pitiot's *Tara Oceans: Voyage through the Climate Engine* (in the presence of the producer Jean-Pierre Bailly), Julian Gomez's *Cracking Climate Change: Science to the Rescue*, and Nicolas Koutsikas and Stéphane Poulle's *Carbon, Public Enemy No.1*.

Koutsikas of the French-based company Georama is registered as one of the producers planning to benefit from the new Advisory Service at this year's MEDIA "umbrella stand".

He managed to access money from the European Commission's DG RTD (Research) and brought the EBU Co-Production Unit onboard *Carbon, Public Enemy No.1*.

The 52-minute documentary film in HD asks if it will be possible to limit emissions of greenhouse gases, and at what cost, and whether the international community can avoid the worst? Could global warming represent an opportunity for the future of our planet?

To answer these questions, scientists from such institutions as Météo France, Ademe, the French Environmental Agency, CNRS and NASA took part in the preparation of the film which, for the first time, brings together the specialists working for the future of our planet, ranging from the Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr R.K. Pachaur through Todd Stern, the American negotiator on climate, to European Commissioners Potochnik and Dimas and Greenpeace.

Further information about Tuesday's workshop when Koutsikas and the other producers will be on hand to answer questions about their productions can be obtained on the European Commission stand at Lerins 3.05. ■

Minimax signs exclusive deal for My Friend Boo in 10 territories

Business Solutions Europa closed a first-day deal with cartoon channel Minimax for the exclusive rights to new educational animation series, *My Friend Boo*, for 10 European territories.

The series, which is co-funded by the European Commission and produced by independent international experts, schoolkids from 6 European countries and award winning animators, follows the journeys of three regular kids who set off on extraordinary adventures to learn about some of today's most important world issues water, energy and the importance of being healthy.

The series is being made available free of charge to European broadcasters. Under the agreement, Minimax (a Chellomedia company), will hold exclusive rights to the series for two years in the Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Kosovo, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia. As part of the deal, the channel, which has a strong focus on socially responsible edutainment programmes for children and families, will also support the development of local language teaching material to accompany the series and be used in schools.

"The week has started on an excellent note! We are delighted that Minimax has signed up to this fantastic project and look forward to our discussions with other broadcasters this week", says Siân Hughes, Communications Manager for Business Solutions Europa.

"Broadcasters can play a really significant role in helping communicate to kids about green and social issues. The issues we deal with in the series are some of the world's most critical, but they are often too complicated and just too gigantic for young people to understand, so we have worked with kids themselves to gauge their understanding and interests. The results are fantastic!"

My Friend Boo will be available for broadcast from June 2010. The series targets 5-8 year olds. ■

