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Organisation

**Catalan Ministry of Telecommunications
and Information Society**

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20th October

L'AUDITORI

c/ de Lepant, 150

Barcelona

At the beginning of the Internet era, it was predicted that the World Wide Web, as well as the process of globalisation, would lead us to a uniform, global information society (IS). In recent years, however, we have seen how different countries and regions have developed information societies according to their own social, political, cultural and economic reality.

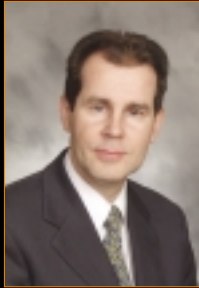
Although we can refer to three major blocks –the United States, the northern European countries and Asia–, it seems logical that each country should seek its own formula for the information society in order to ensure their competitiveness in the future. Different problems, cultures and economic bases imply different solutions, with distinct organisational models and political measures.

The Information Society Models Forum will analyse the three models mentioned which, along with the Mediterranean model, lead the major lines of action worldwide. This shall be conducted with the aim of identifying the virtues of each model, and analysing the major challenges and trends posed to us constantly by the evolution of the information society.

PROGRAMME

- 9:00 a.m. Arrival of participants
- 9:30 a.m. Forum welcome and inauguration
Honorable Andreu Mas-Colell*
- 9:45 a.m. Lecture on Asian IS Model
Mr. Claude Smadja
- 10:30 a.m. Lecture on European IS Model
Mr. Jouni Backman
- 11:15 a.m. Coffee break
- 12:00 noon Lecture on Mediterranean IS Model
Honorable Artur Mas i Gavarró
- 12:45 p.m. Lecture on American IS Model
Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
- 13:30 p.m. Closure

* Minister for Universities, Research and the Information Society Government of Catalonia



Jouni Ensio Backman has been, respectively, Minister of the Interior, of Finance and of the Environment for the Government of Finland. At present he is the head of the e-Government Work Group from his country.



William Jefferson Clinton was a great promoter of the New Economy throughout his term of office as 42nd President of the United States, as regards modernisation of the administration as well as development of the legislation required for growth of the World Wide Web.



Artur Mas i Gavarró is the First Minister of the Catalan Autonomous Government (Generalitat). Since he took on this post in 2001, he has been a firm defender of the need to consolidate the Information Society to guarantee the future of Catalonia.



Claude Smadja has been Director General of the World Economic Forum and in charge of the Annual Davos Meeting as well as organisation of other forums in Asia, especially the East Asia Economic Summit.



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