

EU Cars

The European Union intends to apply a new regulation on cars sold in EU member countries in all of Europe. From 2009 newly produced cars should be equipped with a special system for automatic emergency phone dialing. The new technology called eCall can be activated manually, by pressing a button, automatically- with the opening of the protective air bag or with the assistance of special sensors. When functioning the system gives information of your exact location through mobile connection (the same as a mobile telephone). That sounds like the perfect decision for people in distress who are not fully aware of their location on the roads. The system is suitable not only for car crash situations but it also helps when you run out of gas or the car stops in the middle

of nowhere. In both cases that innovation would considerably lessen the time spent by the rescue teams on simply locating and finding the accident scene.

However, for the successful work of the new technology it is required for all member countries to modernize their emergency call receiving centers in a way that all help cries are to be transferred to the closest possible rescue team. Such a project would require perfect cooperation and coordination between people of different countries and languages, opposing working shifts and habits. The process will be long and difficult but if it turns out successful over 2 000 people from all European countries will be saved each year, as at present around 50 000 people die every year in car crashes in EU countries alone.

On the Road

By 2015 the average age of all Bulgarian cars should be shortened by 8 years according to the National Strategy for Regional Development 2005-2015. At present that age is 13 years and for the substitution of all old cars a special project is to be prepared, the plan aims for higher ecological requirements to be made on all cars and busses. The government is hoping to build some new, better roads so that

traffic is taken further away from the people's doors. Air pollution will be prevented by more intensive use of railway transport, trams and other air friendly vehicles. The project also includes installation of special timers above all traffic lights. They will count down the seconds left before the light turns red so that both drivers and pedestrians can assess whether they can pass or should better stop and wait.

Net or News?

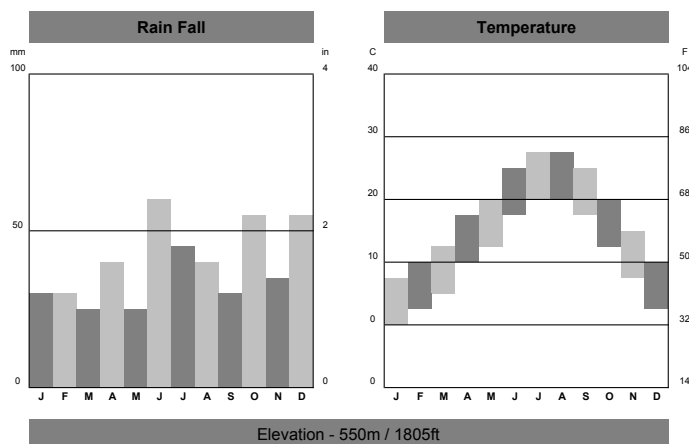
A survey was conveyed by the National Institute for Informational and Communicational Technologies in Japan, an attempt to estimate if the Internet has overtaken the place of the newspaper as a main means of information. According to the appeal, in which 2 000 people (between the age of 13 and 69) took part, the average Japanese spend about 37 minutes a day in the global information network, which indicates a rise of 5 minutes in comparison with last

years data. On the other hand the time spent in reading newspapers is reduced from 33 to 31 minutes per person a day. The more frequent use of the Internet is closely connected to the age of every particular user. For example, teenagers spend an average of 108 minutes on line and spare five times less time in reading newspapers. While the elderly still prefer to read papers and devote 58 minutes of their everyday routine and only 8 minutes for the global net.

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FREE ADVERTISING? CAN IT BE TRUE?

I was looking around various holiday related web-sites recently and came across an offer that seemed too good to be true, but turned out to be genuine. A UK run web-site is offering owners of holiday homes, villas and apartments the opportunity to advertise their properties **FREE OF CHARGE for the rest of this year!**

This seemed to buck the normal trend of a paid for service so I started looking deeper into this proposition, what I discovered is they have recently added Bulgaria to their listing of holiday destinations, and would like to build a portfolio of holiday accommodation available here for the independent holiday-maker who prefers to be self-catering rather than taking your normal run of the mill package deal.

Given the current trend towards eco-tourism and getting away from

the usual sand and sea packages currently offered by the tour companies, this web-site sounds to me like somewhere owners of properties here in Bulgaria should be taking a serious look at if they are interested in letting their home to the lucrative holiday and tourist markets. The site can be found at: **www.euaccommodation.biz** and then just follow the link at the bottom of the page to advertise your property, and as its free you can only gain by being listed here.

You should also couple this offer with a management package from an experienced property management company (try Black Sea Property Management on 052-612882) as this gives complete peace of mind regarding the maintenance and security of your home when you are not using it yourself.