A B U L
Association Bordelaise des Utilisateurs de Logiciels *Libres*
Libre Software Meeting

Bordeaux, 4th of June, 2002

To: Mister Koïchiro Matsuura
        Director-General of UNESCO

Dear Sir,

From July, 9th to July, 13th 2002 will take place near Bordeaux (France), the third **Libre Software Meeting**, organized by three French free software related associations (ABUL, AFUL and APRIL).

LSM:	http://lsm.abul.org
ABUL:	http://abul.org
AFUL:	http://aful.org
APRIL:	http://april.org

The goal of the Libre Software Meeting is to set up a single place where as many people as possible will be able to share information and gather their energies toward large scale free software projects.

A « free software » is a software which offers the following four freedoms to the user:
1. freedom to use the software for whatever purpose,
2. freedom to examine the features of the software and to adapt it to his own needs,
3. freedom to distribute copies to others,
4. freedom to publish an improved version. See the Free Software definition at :
        http://www.fsf.org/philosophy/free-sw.html

The "Free software = world heritage" work group has been set up by APRIL and the FSF France with the idea that free software be considered as a world human heritage by UNESCO. Its work and activities are related at:
        http://april.org/groupes/patrimoine-mondial/

Free software, unlike the usual proprietary software, is part of human knowledge. The free software community values of freedom, collaboration, sharing and mutual

assistance are close to UNESCO's values, and free software encourages other goals such as independence, continuity, multilingualism, protection of local culture, and ease of access. In fact UNESCO already shows great interest for the community and has its own free software portal:

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http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_freesoft/
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The "Free software = world heritage" work group is currently discussing with UNESCO (Philippe Quéau, director of Information Society Division), with French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with European Commission (Philippe Aigrain head of sector: Open source and free software; Media technology) and with Free Software Foundation (Richard Stallman, President).

The LSM organization and "Free software = world heritage" work group would be pleased and honored to welcome you at LSM, to present our community to you and to give you copies of some of our community's works (the AbulEdu GNU/Linux distribution for schools, the GNU project and the Debian GNU/Linux distribution).

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http://www.abuledu.org
http://www.gnu.org
http://www.debian.org
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We'll be pleased that UNESCO keeps watch every man can access these software, use them and make them evolve without constraints.

Cordially,

Pierre Jarillon   Benoît Sibaud
LSM organization   Free software = world heritage

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