



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WORKING DOCUMENTS

English Edition

1985-86

DOCUMENT A 2-180/85/Annex

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to the report by Mr G. Patterson on behalf of the
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial
Policy

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Opinion of the Committee on Energy, Research and
Technology

WG(VS)/3031E

PE 101.919/fin./Ann.



At its meeting of 16 October 1985 the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology appointed Mr Aldo BONACCINI draftsman of the opinion.

At its meeting of 17 December 1985 the committee considered the draft opinion. It adopted the conclusions by 11 votes with 1 abstention.

The following took part in the vote:

Mr PONIATOWSKI, chairman; Mr SALZER, vice-chairman; Mr BONACCINI, draftsman of the opinion; Mr FORD (deputizing for Mr LINKOHR), Mr KOLOKOTRONIS, Mrs LIZIN, Mr MALLET, Mr METTEN (deputizing for Mr SMITH), Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (deputizing for Mr KILBY), Mr ROUX (deputizing for Mr CARIGNON) and Mr SCHINZEL.

1. While the general views expressed in the white paper can be endorsed, particularly those concerning markets, the elimination of customs duties, and the harmonization of tax laws, it must be stressed that the chapter devoted to new technologies and services is biased and incomplete.

Inadequate attention is given to the role that new technologies are destined to play, both for reasons which are inherent to them and as a result of Community policies.

2. The industrial application of some of these technologies and in many cases the research itself need to be given a European dimension. In addition, there is a need for extensive financial resources to be made available as well as permanent links between research centres and universities in the different countries to improve the efficiency of research work and facilitate the subsequent relations with the fields of production in which the findings will be applied.

This is clearly evident in the telematics and other sectors.

3. Parliament itself has come out in favour of progress towards the creation of a single market for energy and energy transfers. Mention should also be made of the use of space technologies for all information and communication activities and the need for a vast market, free of obstacles, for the applications offered by biotechnology in the field of medicine and pharmaceuticals and in agriculture and industry, including the training of research workers and continual exchanges of experience.

4. It is the size and freedom of this market which will make possible the most important initiatives in the field of research, application and industrial cooperation. The limited space devoted to new terminologies therefore needs to be extended and their significance explored in greater depth.

5. In conclusion, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology:

- whereas the expansion of the European economy requires greater rationalization of energy consumption and a policy of increased energy savings compatible with the expansion of economic activity;

- whereas competitiveness and industrialization are essential to the development of the European economy;

- hopes that the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy will call on the Council:

1. to make coordinated efforts to implement the requisite measures in the field of alternative energies, particularly in those Member States which are furthest behind in this sector (e.g. Italy);

2. to take measures to extend the internal market which will encourage research sectors moving in this direction, in particular:

- (a) measures to provide finance consistent with the scale of the work required, including the issuing of a major Community loan on European markets for this purpose;

- (b) promoting training;

- (c) taking steps to foster the liberalization of trade and contracts which bring together initiatives by various European countries and thus improve infrastructures enabling these objectives to be achieved;
3. to introduce provisions which will promote a broader social consensus on measures necessary to open up the markets;
 4. to eliminate existing and possible future obstacles to the free movement of public and individual means of transport between the Member States;
 5. to promote and facilitate exchanges of staff and of experiences between research institutions in order to ensure contact and communications between them in the application of research by production and distribution enterprises;
 6. to take steps to promote the adoption of European-scale projects and trans-national cooperation in the research effort in the field of new technology;
 7. to ensure that the results of energy research projects specifically aimed at safety and social welfare are given wide publicity so that standards in this respect come to be harmonized.

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