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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT

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NEWS

- The STOA Panel adopted the Workplan for 1998 at Panel meeting of 18 December in Strasbourg. This Workplan contains 20 projects for 12 Committees of the European Parliament.
- Six STOA Workshops are planned between now and the end of April 1998. In chronological order, the subjects are: Internet and human rights; Safety standards for ionising radiation; Environmental Coastguard; Drug use; Learning to live in the Information Society as an older person, and Open sea aquaculture with acoustic recall. Further details inside this Newsletter.
- Contrary to what was announced in the December 1997 issue of the STOA Newsletter, Prof. Jean-Louis ARMAND, STOA's Chief Adviser on Quality Control, will give the presentation of his Final Report on 'Advice on the quality control of technology assessment reports' at the STOA Panel meeting of **19 February 1998** in Strasbourg.
- Dr Marcelo SOSA, has joined the staff of the STOA Unit in Brussels, filling the vacant administrator post. This is a significant strengthening of the STOA team. (Further details inside).
- The first Ramón y Cajal Scholars have begun their three-month 'stages' in STOA. This Scholarship scheme for young scientists was opened for candidatures last year.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, PAPERS, BRIEFS

Work in Progress - The following Working documents are being presented to the STOA Panel in January:

Workplan 1997

- An Appraisal of the Working in Practice of Directive 90/220/EEC on the Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Organisms**
Dr René VON SCHOMBERG, ICHPA, Tilburg, THE NEDERLANDS,
Final Study - Options brief, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C11/1, EN, January 1998, PE 166.953/Final and PE 166.953/Opt.Brief
- Synergy Between the Ecology of the Sea and the Economy of the Land**
Dr Eberhard FALCK, Berlin, GERMANY
Interim Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel 1997, Workplan 1997 - 97/C17/1, EN, January 1998, PE 167.128/Int.St
- Aquaculture: Deployment of An Open-sea Marine Park with Self-restocking by Behaviourally Conditioned Fish with the Objective of Exploitation by Traditional Fishing Methods**
Mr David SCOTT, University of Aquaculture, Stirling, SCOTLAND
Scoping paper, Working Document for the STOA Panel 1997, Workplan 1997 - 97/C17/2, EN, January 1998, PE 167.198/Scop
- Electronic Commerce and the Technological Perspectives of Secure Telecommunications**
Mrs Sylvie FEINDT, TELEPORT, Barleben, GERMANY
Interim Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C06/1, EN, January 1998, PE 167.057/Int.St
- Prospects for the Application of Superconductivity in the Storage and Transport of Electricity**
Prof. Richard John ARTLEY, SCIENTIFIC GENERICS LIMITED, Harston, UK
Interim Study Report, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05/5, EN, January 1998, PE 167.153/Int.St
- The Fifth Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development: A Scientific and Technological Assessment of its contribution to economic and social cohesion (art. 130b) and of options for promoting this contribution**
Interim Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C09/2, EN, January, 1998, PE 167.230/Int.St.

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

The following Project Steering Groups (PSG) will be holding scoping meetings:

- **97/C05-C15/1 - Transparency and openness in scientific advisory committees.** A scoping meeting with Mrs McNALLY, author of the project, and Dr STEIN of PREST, UK, is planned to be held on 21 January 1998 in Brussels.

The following Project Steering Groups (PSG) have held scoping meetings in the past month:

- **97/C17/2 -Aquaculture: Deployment of an open-sea marine park with self-restocking by behaviourally conditioned fish**
Date/place: 17 December 1997, Strasbourg
Participants included: Mr d'ABOVILLE, MEP; Mr PROVAN, MEP; Mr MUSTIN, Hydro-M; Mr KRAEWINKELS, DGII/Head of Division, Committee on Fisheries; Mr BOSTOCK, Stirling Institute of Aquaculture; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Ms LIGNON, STOA Scholar.
Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the planning of the Workshop was discussed with the contractor on the basis of Scoping Paper.
For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

WORKSHOPS

The following STOA Workshops are in preparation:

- **97/C01/1 - The use of Internet for the promotion of human rights**

The Workshop is planned to take place on Tuesday, 27 January 1998 (morning and afternoon) in Brussels (Room LEO 5-E-2).

The Centre for Research in Library and Information Management (CERLIM), at the University of Central Lancashire, are working with colleagues from the human rights movements in Europe to deliver a Workshop on Human Rights on the Internet. A number of meetings have taken place involving Amnesty International, the Organisation Mondiale Contre La Torture (OMCT) and other NGOs involved in human rights.

The last meeting of the group took place on 28 October 1997, when a list of speakers to be invited from across Europe, Asia and America was formulated. The Workshop will provide an opportunity to consider the possible future work of the European Parliament in promoting and protecting human rights.

A survey of Internet usage by human rights activists is to be undertaken during November and December, to be carried out on Amnesty's Web Site. Simultaneously OMCT, Geneva will conduct the survey by e-mail and by post.

For further information contact Eddie HALPIN at CERLIM on +44-1772-892491 or e.f.halpin1@uclan.ac.uk

□ **97/C05/6 - Survey and evaluation of criticisms of basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation**

The Workshop is planned to take place on Thursday, 5 February 1998 (09.00 to 17.30) in Brussels (Room LEO 5-E-2).

The aim of the Workshop is to analyse and assess recent debate concerning basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation in a manner that will be useful to the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy of the European Parliament, and to the Parliament as a whole, in their deliberations on this subject.

The Workshop format chosen is intended to make it possible to hear presentations by independent experts on aspects of risk analysis, the reliability of empirical data from different sources, the validity of standard-setting criteria and to assess criticisms which have been made of standards recommended by the International Committee on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

The Workshop will be divided into four Sessions. Each Session will contain formal presentations from invited 'expert speakers' with a question and answer period after each presentation. There will be also time for some short contributed oral presentations. The topics to be discussed in the four Sessions will be:

1. The current debate on basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation
2. Ionising radiation and biological systems
 - . Link between exposure rates and cancer (including leukaemia), congenital deformity and other disease.
 - . Exposure levels for children and pregnant women
 - . Sources and significance of occupational and public exposure from nuclear medicine
 - . Chronic exposure to low level radiation
 - . Radiological protection criteria for workers and the public
3. Risk assessment
 - . Evaluation of assessment techniques
 - . Methods of quantification of radioactive contamination and estimates of health risk
 - . Radioactive waste management

4. Legislation, validation and implementation
- . The standards-setting process (ICRB, IAEA, EURATOM, National bodies)
 - . Theoretical validation of standards
 - . Public debate on standards
 - . Parliamentary control of the standard-setting process

For further information contact Prof. P.A. ASSIMAKOPOULOS at the University of Ioannina, on +30-651-98551 or e-mail: pasimak@cc.uoi.gr

95/ENVI/SP/2 - Environmental Coastguard

The Workshop is planned to take place on Monday, 9 February 1998 (PM) and Tuesday, 10 February 1998 (AM) in Brussels (Room to be defined).

97/C12/3 - Drug use: scientific and technological policy options

The Workshop is planned to take place on Monday, 2 March 1998 (PM) and Tuesday, 3 March 1998 (AM) in Brussels (Room to be defined).

97/C12/2 - Learning to live in the information society as an older person

The Workshop is planned to take place on Monday, 23 March 1998 (PM) and Tuesday, 24 March 1998 (AM) in Brussels (Room to be defined).

97/C17/2 - Aquaculture: Deployment of an open-sea marine park

Date end April 1998 to be finalised.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is glad to announce that the following has joined the Team:

Dr Marcelo Sosa-Iudicissa the new administrator, who is now based in Brussels. Medical doctor (University of Zaragoza); postgraduate residency training in Family and Community Medicine; Masters degree in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Additional postgraduate training in information technology, business management and administration. Professional experience has encompassed health care practice, university teaching at pre and postgraduate levels, research and development projects, management and administration functions. Civil servant with Spanish national institute of public health "Carlos III", where he was responsible for the development of information systems, including documentation resources and informatic support. Worked for five years as scientific officer for the European Commission in the field of telematics applications research and development. Director of the National Library of Health Sciences (Madrid), and consultant to various national and international bodies, including the World Health

Organisation, and the International Telecommunications Union. Interests include matters related to developing countries, education, the Internet and technology transfer and cooperation policies. He is author of several professional articles and has published seven books. on various subjects such as medical practice, public health and consumers affairs, information society and developing countries, the latest being "Internet, Telematics and Health." In January 1998 he joined the Scientific and Technological Options Assessment (STOA) office of the European Parliament. Married to Dr Cony Gracia and proud father of Nahuel (9) and Alexis (5).

- STOA is glad to announce that the following scholars have joined the Team:
José-Luis ORTEGA, biodiversity; Nicolas COTTIS, pesticides; Anne Dubrocard, regional evaluation; Francesco RESTIVO, agriculture and climate change;

Please address your requests for any of the documents listed above to Mr Frans SCHAERLAEKEN by fax (for details see list at the end).

STOA PANEL

		<u>Committee</u>
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Mr Alain POMPIDOU	(F, UPE)	
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Mr David BOWE	(UK, PSE)	Environment/Public Health
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Mr Guido PODESTÀ	(I, UPE)	Vice-President of the EP
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Mr Leo TINDEMANS	(B, PPE)	Foreign Affairs, Security
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Mr Tommy WAIDELICH	(SV, PSE)	Budgets
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Mrs Erika MANN	(D, PSE)	External Economic Relations
Mr Stéphane BUFFETAUT	(F, I-EDN)	Legal Affairs
Mr Nikolaos PAPAKYRIAZIS	(GR, PSE)	Social Affairs and Employment
Mr Antoni GUTIÉRREZ DIAZ	(E, GUE)	Regional Policy
Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN	(D, PPE)	Transport and Tourism
Mr Roberto SPECIALE	(I, PSE)	Development and Cooperation
Mr Glyn FORD	(UK, PSE)	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs
Mr Andrea MANZELLA	(I, PSE)	Institutional Affairs
Mr Ulf HOLM	(SV, V)	Budgetary Control
Mr Gordon ADAM	(UK, PSE)	Fisheries
Mr Florus WIJSENBECK	(NL, ELDR)	Rules of Procedure
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Mr Felipe CAMISÓN ASENSIO	(ES, PPE)	Petitions
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Mr Esko Olavi SEPPÄNEN	(FIN, GUE/NGL)	Budgets
Mr Franco MALERBA	(I, UPE)	Economic and Monetary Affairs
Mr Christof TANNERT	(D, PSE)	Research/Energy
Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL	(NL, ELDR)	External Economic Relations
Mr Julio AÑOVEROS TRIAS DE BES	(E, PPE)	Legal Affairs
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Mr Ulrich STOCKMANN	(D, PSE)	Transport and Tourism
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Mr Bernd POSSELT	(D, PPE)	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs
Mr Jonas SJÖSTEDT	(SV, GUE/NGL)	Institutional Affairs
Mr James PROVAN	(UK, PPE)	Fisheries
Mrs Renate HEINISCH	(D, PPE)	Women's Rights

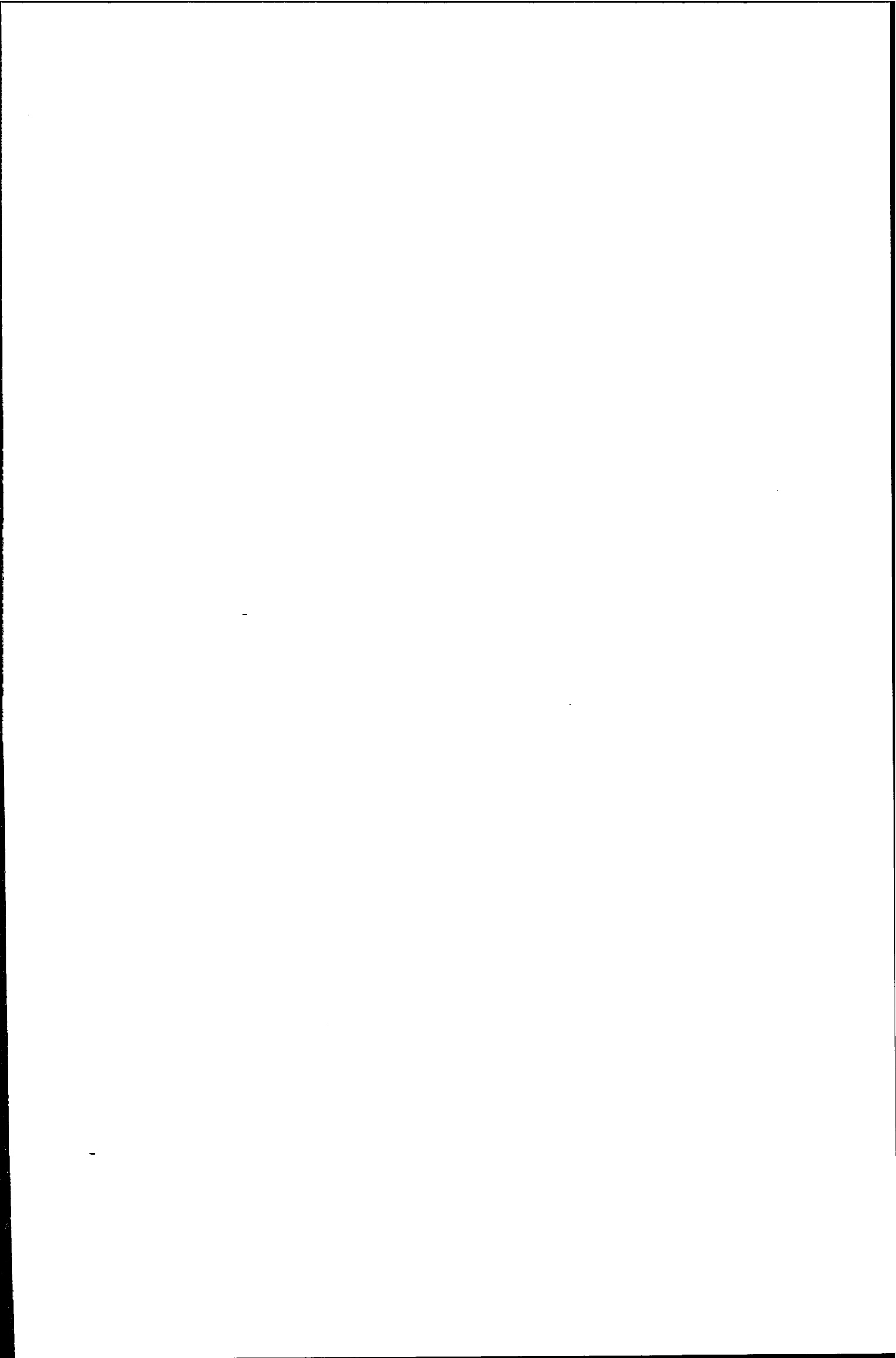
ONLY THE MEMBERS NAMED ABOVE HAVE THE **RIGHT TO VOTE** AT THE
STOA PANEL MEETINGS.

Directorate-General for Research, Directorate B, Division for Environment, Energy and STOA

RAMSAY, Robert	Director-General	4300-22535	SCH 6/01
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VAN DER PERRE, Lieven	Head of Division	4300-22558	SCH 6/64
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SERCU, Karin	Secretary	28-43748	LEO 6D110
SCHAERLAEKEN, Frans	Secretariat	4300-23942	SCH 4/37
GUERRA, María Luisa	Secretary	4300-24342	SCH 4/83
OVERSTALL, John	Principal Administrator, Budget	4300-22618	SCH 6/07
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DUBROCARD Anne	Ramón y Cajal Scholar	4300-22027	SCH 4/84
LIGNON, Karine	Scholar, Fisheries economist	4300-23923	SCH 4/36
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