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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT

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NEWS

- Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN, MEP, gave a presentation on the results of the Workshop on the 'European Environmental Coast Guard' at the meeting of the Committee on Transport and Tourism of 24-25 February 1998 in Brussels.
- Mr Edward HALPIN of CERLIM, University of Central Lancashire, gave a presentation on the Workshop on 'The use of the Internet for the promotion of human rights' at the meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of 26 February 1998 in Brussels.
- The Final Report on 'An appraisal of the working in practice of Directive 90/220/EEC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms' by Mr VON SCHOMBERG of ICHPA, Tilburg, the Netherlands, may be discussed at one of the next meetings of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection. All their MEPs have by now received a copy.
- Restricted Calls for Tenders (RCFTs) have been sent out for the following projects in the 1998 Workplan: Consequences of climate change for agricultural production (98/02/01); Building regulations as a means of requiring energy saving and use of renewable energies (98/05/03); The selection of indicators for the evaluation of programmes of regional assistance in the EU (98/09/01); Sustainable use of pesticides (98/11/01); Biodiversity strategy (98/11/02); SMEs, technology and development (98/13/01). As soon as the deadlines for these Calls for Tenders has been reached the best proposal for the research will be selected and a contract will be awarded. For the other projects the same procedure will be applied soon. Those interested in one or several of them are requested to send in their Expression of Interest without delay.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, STUDIES, PAPERS, BRIEFS

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

Workplan 1998

- Sustainable use of pesticides, by Mr Nicolas COTTIS, STOA Ramón y Cajal Scholar Briefing on Pesticides, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1998 - 98/C11/01, EN, March 1998, PE 167.326/Brf.

Workplan 1997

- The use of the internet for the EP's activities for the promotion and protection of human rights**, by Mr Edward F. HALPIN and Mrs Shelagh FISHER, Centre for Research in Library and Information Management (CERLIM), University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK
First Draft Workshop Study (Workshop of 27 January 1998, Brussels), Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C01/1, EN, March 1997, PE 167.227/Drft.Wkshop.St.
- Prospects for the application of superconductivity in the storage and transport of electricity**, by Prof Richard John ARTLEY and Dr Trevor CLIFTON, Scientific Generics Ltd, Cambridge, UK
Draft Final Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05/5, EN, March 1998, PE 167.153/Drft.Fin.St + Options Brief in French and German
- 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**, by Mr Henri ZIBETTA, ANETEC (Agency for natural resources, energy and technology), Brussels, Belgium
Draft Final Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C09/2, EN, March 1998, PE 167.230/Drft.Fin.St.
- Transparency and openness in scientific advisory committees: The American experience**, by Dr Josephine Anne STEIN, PREST, UK
Scoping Paper, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05-C015/1, EN, March 1998, PE 167.327/Scop.Pap.

Workplan 1995

- European Environmental Coast Guard**, by Mr Graham J. CLARKE, IMC Associates, Hampshire, UK
Summary (Workshop of 9-10 February 1998, Brussels), Workplan 1995. EN FR DE, March 1997

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

The following Project Steering Groups (PSG) has held a scoping meeting in the past month:

Workplan 1997

- **97/C05-C15/1 - Transparency and openness in scientific advisory committees**

Date/place: 2 March 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs McNALLY, MEP; Mr LAKE, DGII/Research Committee secretariat; Mr JACOBS, Institutional Committee secretariat; Mrs ALBANI LIBERALI, Conciliation Committee secretariat; Ms JANEKE, Assistant Mrs Lööw; Mr SWARTZ, Assistant Mrs Roth-Behrendt; Ms KALIA, Assistant Mr Needle; Dr STEIN, PREST, UK; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA.

Main outcomes: Agreement on project scope and timing on the basis of a Scoping Paper.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

WORKSHOPS

The following STOA Workshops are in preparation:

- **97/C12/2 - Learning to live in the information society as an older person: Educating older people to use information, communications and mobility technologies to enhance their participation in the European information society, obstacles and opportunities**

This Workshop is planned to take place on Monday 23 March PM and Tuesday 24 March AM in Room LEO 5B01 in Brussels, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Heinisch, Vice-Chairman of STOA. This Workshop was requested from STOA by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media.

The Workshop aims at deepening the analysis of how the older members of European society can turn the opportunities of the information society to good account, in a way that will enhance their ability to contribute positively and proactively to the social and economic life of their communities. The issues will be addressed from both the point of view of the individual and from that of society in general (covering economic effects).

The Workshop will deal with the perspective of the individuals pointing to the following topics: aspects relevant to the specific health, safety and security problems of the older citizen and opportunities provided by computers and telecommunications to play a positive role in social contact with others, life-long learning, teleworking, participation in non-profit-making organisations, management of personal affairs (shopping, banking, communication with public authorities), access to culture and active authorship, acquisition of know-how and experience of computer and telematics systems.

As for the societal perspective the Workshop will highlight the weight of older people as

consumers, the economic consequences of an ageing society characterised by strong market presence of retired or elderly consumers, relations with industry, price effect (in particular for special needs applications) and society's need to cater for economically disadvantaged people with special needs who potentially benefit greatly from the information society

The Workshop will be attended by representatives of the older population, Members of the European Parliament, European Commission Officials, Expert Speakers from Research Institutions and Education Institutions, NGOs, etc.

For further information, please contact the Contractor:

Mrs TREIBER of Mrs BECKWITH at Teleport-Sachsen Anhalt, 39 boulevard Clovis, 1000 Brussels, tel: +32-2-285.46.24, fax: +32-2-230.69.29, e-mail: treiber@epri.org OR beckwith@epri.org

- **97/C12/3 - Drug use: scientific and technological contributions to the assessment of policy options on drug use and related treatments, from the level of individual treatment to the national and European policy level**

This Workshop is now planned to take place on Thursday 23 April PM and Friday 24 April AM in Room LEO 5-E-2 in Brussels, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Heinisch. Vice-Chairman of STOA.

The subject of this Workshop, which was requested from STOA by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and Media, is the worrying problem of drug use.

The European Council, European Parliament, Commission and the EU Member States have insisted on the need to combat drug addiction. The European Union in general and the European Parliament in particular have been active in the prevention of drug dependence. Recently the European Parliament debated the programme of Community action on the prevention of drug dependence within the framework for action in the field of public health (1995 to 2000).

In spite of all the political activities and decisions at EU and international level drug policies have failed to tackle the increasing power of the drugs traffickers and to stop the increasing use, abuse and addiction of drugs. It is not the aim of this study to deal with drug trafficking but it is intended to identify scientific and technological options to reduce drug use by efficient policy.

Therefore it is necessary to establish the state of scientific knowledge concerning drugs and their use and effects. The relevant fields are: scientific research, treatment therapies, techniques, technologies and related issues. The knowledge about these themes is essential for the understanding of drug use, its development and the processes for addressing its effects and growth. In order to confront the drugs problem entirely, we need science and technology to help us provide answers to such questions as those listed below. In the list there are questions which have long been studied and discussed by scientific researchers.

However, there remain important gaps in our knowledge, and moreover the situation is always shifting as new drugs become available or as trends in distribution, availability or consumption change. The task of the project is to identify how research priorities should be determined.

Special attention should be given to the following questions:

- . Is there added value in European-level action in this field, or is this a case where subsidiarity applies?
- . What are the consequences of divergent policies and laws among the Member States of the European Union?

Other questions to be answered are for example:

- . How are the pharmaceutical properties of the various types of drugs related to their behaviour-modifying effects?
- . What new technologies are being developed by illegal drug-manufacturers to make new drugs? Are synthetic drugs becoming more and more potent? Are there limits to the future evolution of behaviour modifying drugs?
- . Can tests to detect drug use be improved (e.g. better reliability; reliable detection 'on the spot')?
- . How can tests for the detecting of illegal drugs in transit be improved?

The main objective of the project is to establish the state of scientific knowledge by

- . giving an overview of the subject area and its treatment at EU level,
- . listing the (actual) scientific and technological aspects of measuring the extent of the issue area,
- . exploring the different comparative measures for
 - (a) assessing the scale of the issues and
 - (b) listing and evaluating the types of strategies and policies which seek to address the issues,
- . listing and examining the scientific and technological aspects of managing the policies on the use of drugs,
- . showing up the needs for further research.

For further information, please contact the Contractor:

Mr MAAS, at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Bergstraße 17, 1090 Vienna, Austria, tel: +43-1-319.45.05.22, fax: +43-1-319.45.05.19, e-mail: maas@euro.centre.org

- 97/C17/2 - Aquaculture: Deployment of an open-sea marine park with self-restocking by behaviourally conditioned fish with the objective of exploitation by traditional fishing methods**

This Workshop is planned to take place on Monday 27 April PM and Tuesday 28 April AM in Room LEO 5-E-2 in Brussels, under the Chairmanship of Mr d'ABOVILLE, MEP. This Workshop was requested from STOA by the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries.

Free Fish Farms at Sea (FFFS) is a concept which integrates many of the contemporary techniques used in fisheries and aquaculture and addresses the need for creative collaboration between these two sectors. The concept relies on hatchery-reared fish being acoustically conditioned in association with feeding. The fish are then released onto an enhanced habitat within an open sea area and are encouraged to remain within the local area by transmitting an acoustic signal at limited feeding times. Once mature, the fish are then recaptured by traditional fishing methods.

The Workshop will address issues of feasibility, positive and negative impacts etc. and will be guided by speakers with relevant expertise. The following topics with their relevance to FFFS are to be addressed at the Workshop:

- . FFFS Overview - French developments
- . Hatching, restocking of appropriate species
- . Japanese experience
- . Artificial reefs, aggregation and enhancement
- . Acoustic barriers and recall mechanisms
- . Economics macro/micro
- . Legal aspects global/local
- . Environmental aspects
- . Recapture of marine fish
- . Consumer/Market aspects

The Workshop will involve parliamentarians, EC officials, and invited specialists with experience in the field. The discussion generated at the Workshop will be used as the basis for a study which will appear two months after the Workshop.

For further information, please contact the Contractor:

Mr John BOSTOCK, Stirling Aquaculture, Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA, Scotland, tel: +44-1786-45.14.61, fax: +44-1786-45.14.62, e-mail: staq@stir.ac.uk, web site: <http://www.stir.ac.uk/aqua/staq/FFFS/>

Important

People external to the EU institutions wishing to attend one of these Workshops are kindly requested to contact the Contractor or the STOA secretariat in Brussels in advance.

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 Workplan 1998: Summary of projects

<i>Committee project n°</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Project title</i>
0201	Agriculture	Consequences of climate change for agricultural production
0401	EMAC	State of play of the interstate customs computer network
0501	CERT	Ethical issues in European research and technology
0502		Comparative study into coalmining technology and costs between the EU (including countries of C. and E. Europe) and major competitors in USA, Australia, S. Africa
0503		Building regulations as a means of requiring energy saving and use of renewable energies: current status and future potential at Member State and EU level
0504		A nuclear amplifier for energy for electricity production
0505		Bio-informatics: a technology assessment of recent developments in bio-informatics and related areas of research and development including high-throughput screening and combinatorial chemistry
0801	ASOC	Technology-induced atypical work-forms: Existing and proposed regulatory strategies concerning social agents (state, employers, trade unions) dealing with technologically-induced a-typical forms of work (tele-work, stand-by work, 24-hour-office-operation)
0901	Regional	The selection of indicators for the evaluation of programmes of regional assistance in the European Union: Classification of criteria for an empirical assessment principally based on research and development, technological innovation and technology transfer indicators
1001	Transport	Revitalising railways: Examples of failures and successes in the revitalisation of railways outside the European Union
1101	Environment	Sustainable use of pesticides
1102		Biodiversity strategy
1103		Orphan drugs
1201	Culture	Cultural diversity in the new media
1301	Development	SMEs, technology and development
1302		New options for renewable energy sources, including solar power, in the developing world
1401	Civil liberties	Appraisal of technologies of political control
1402		Use of modern technology for the purpose of setting up a European juridical network
1701	Fisheries	The problem of discards in fisheries
1801	Rules	Ways to facilitate the EP's work by the use of new technologies

STOA PANEL

Committee

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Transport and Tourism

Environment

Culture/Youth

Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs

Institutional Affairs

Fisheries

Women's Rights

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