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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT

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NEWS

- STOA has been elected to the Chairmanship of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA) network, and 3 new countries have joined EPTA: Finland, Greece and Italy. The Chairman of the STOA Panel, Mr Alain POMPIDOU (F, UPE) was elected Chairman of the EPTA Council for 1998 at the annual meeting of the Council in Copenhagen on 26 September 1997. Mr David BOWE, Vice-Chairman, also represented the STOA Panel. STOA succeeds the Danish Technology Council, which hosted this year's conference and Council meeting on 25-26 September. The topic of the Conference was 'The impact of parliamentary technology assessment'. Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit, was among those who made presentations.
- A financial report, being delivered to the STOA Panel at its meeting on 23 October in Strasbourg, will show that STOA has beaten last year's milestones in the launching of projects and commitment of appropriations.
- Mr Stéphane BUFFETAUT (F, I-EDN) is the new representative on the STOA Panel for the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights, taking over from Mr FABRE-AUBRESPY.
- Mr MITSOS, Director at DGXII.G of the European Commission is giving a presentation on Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER) at the STOA Panel meeting of 23 October. An information dossier is available.
- It is planned to organise a one-day seminar on 'Quality in parliamentary technology assessment (TA): The European dimension', involving researchers and experts from all EU countries, in Marseille on 12 December. Prof. Jean-Louis ARMAND, STOA's Chief Adviser on Quality Control, is the leader of the project.
- A visit is planned to the Electronic Data Management system of the city of Köln on 7 November 1997 (provisional date). Further information from the STOA Unit.
- A new edition of the Publications Catalogue of the Directorate-General for Research, including the STOA documents, is available. This is the first time that a consolidated list has been issued, cataloguing STOA's studies in the same publication as these of the other dossiers and series of the Directorate-General for Research (DGIV). To obtain this catalogue please contact Mr DIMMER of DGIV.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, PAPERS, BRIEFS

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

Workplan 1997

- An appraisal of the working in practice of directive 90/220/EEC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (97/C11/1)**, Draft Final Report, by Dr. phil. ir. René VON SCHOMBERG, the Netherlands
- Appropriate energy storage technologies for the use with distributed, stochastic energy sources (97/C05/2)**, Draft Interim Report, by Dr Murray CAMERON, WIP, München, Germany
- Electronic commerce and secure telecommunications (97/C06/1)**, Scoping Meeting Report, by Mrs Sylvie FEINDT, Teleport Sachsen-Anhalt GmbH, Germany

Workplan 1996

- Technologies for control of persons and materials at the external borders of the EU (E.P.1)**, Draft Final Report, by Mr James HATCH, Smith System Engineering Ltd, Surrey, UK
- The scientific and technological applications, development and research and the needs of the fisheries sector (F.P.1)**, by Mr Hans LASSEN, Danish Institute for Fisheries Research and Mr Georges MASSART, IFREMER, France
- Assessment of dual technologies in the context of European security and defence (G.P.1)**, Final Report, by Dr Jordi MOLAS-GALLART and Mr Julian PERRY ROBINSON, SPRU, University of Sussex, UK

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

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

- 97/C17/1 - Synergy between the ecology of the sea and economy of the land.** A scoping meeting with the contractor, Dr Falck, is foreseen to be held on Thursday, 23 October, at 11.00 in Strasbourg.

- 97/C05/4 - Sequencing the human genome: scientific progress, economic and ethical and social aspects**

Scoping meeting planned for the near future, date to be finalised.

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

Scoping meeting planned for the near future, date to be finalised.

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

1997 Workplan

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

Date/place: 22 September 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mr NOONAN, DGII/Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Human Rights; Mr HALPIN, contractor (CERLIM, University of Central Lancashire); Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Ms MEHLBAUM, STOA Scholar.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the planning of the Workshop by the contractor was discussed.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

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

Date/place: 2 October 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mr HEALY, Energy and Research Adviser, Green Group; Prof. ASSIMAKOPOULOS, Contractor (University of Ioannina); Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the planning of the Workshop by the contractor was discussed.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- 97/C06/1 - Electronic commerce and secure telecommunications**

Date/place: 9 October 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs MANN, MEP; Mr VAN DER GAAG, DGII/Head of Division, Committee on External Economic Relations; Mrs FEINDT, contractor (Teleport Sachsen-Anhalt); Mr CULPIN, partner of contractor (Martech International/Belgian TeleWorking Association); Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the execution of the study by the contractor was discussed in the light of the work of the Committees on External Economic Relations and on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy. A scoping meeting report has been delivered.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- 97/C09/2 - Fifth Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development: A scientific and technological assessment of its contribution to economic and social cohesion (Article 130B) and of options for promoting this contribution**

Date/place: 15 October 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mr PFEIFER, DGII/Secretariat of the Committee on Regional Policy; Mr DE MICHELIS, EC/DGXVI; Mr ZIBETTA, Contractor (ANETEC); Ms VAZQUEZ, his assistant; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the execution of the study by the contractor was discussed on the basis of a scoping paper.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

Workplan 1995

- ENVI/SP/2 - Environmental Coastguard**

Date/place: 23 September 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mr SEIDEL, Assistant to Mrs LANGENHAGEN; Mr CLARKE, Contractor (IMC Associates); Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the planning and content of the Workshop by the contractor was discussed on the basis of a 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**

Date in early 1998 to be finalised when the reservation of meeting rooms in 1998 becomes possible.

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

Date in early 1998 to be finalised.

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

Date in early 1998 to be finalised.

- **95/ENVI/SP/2 - Environmental Coastguard**

Date in early 1998 to be finalised.

The following STOA Workshop took place:

- **97/C05/3 - Operational requirements of a commercial fusion reactor**

Date/place: 30 September 1997, Brussels

Main outcomes: The Workshop, chaired by Mrs PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL, Rapporteur for the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy, and Member of the STOA Panel, was organised by ECOTEC, Birmingham, with presentations by several expert speakers. The Draft Final Report is expected by the end of the month; it will help the Committee with the preparations for relevant chapter of the Fifth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- EUFORES, the European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources, chaired by Mr ROBLES PIQUER, MEP), is organising an Interparliamentary Meeting on 'Implementing renewable energies in the EU' on 28-30 November 1997 on the Canary Islands. The organisation of this meeting, where MEPs and Members of national and regional parliaments EU-wide meet to contribute to the discussion on the 'White book on Renewable Energy Sources' and to exchange views on related topics, is being organised by EUFORES together with the Government of the Canary Islands, supported by the European Commission and in cooperation with other related organisations. Mrs Eryl McNALLY, Member of the STOA Panel, is a Vice-Chairman of EUFORES. For more information please contact the STOA secretariat or Mr Juan FRAGA, General Secretary EUFORES, tel. +34-1-383.33.39, fax +34-1-383.31.59.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is glad to announce that the following Mrs Maria Luisa GUERRA has joined the Team and will help the secretariat as an auxiliary for the coming 8 months.

□ STOA is sad to announce that the following have left the Team:

Mrs Ellen DAVIES, who worked for STOA since 1991, first as a secretary to the Head of Unit, then to the Financial Principal Administrator, and who has now resigned in order to enjoy life to the full. We thank her for all her valuable contributions to STOA's work.

Mr Alexander POTRYKUS, who worked on the projects on 'Appropriate energy storage technologies' and 'Drug use: scientific and technological policy options' and as EPTA Coordinator.

We wish them all the best for the future.

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

Committee

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Mr Alain POMPIDOU (F, UPE)

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Mrs Renate HEINISCH (D, PPE)

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Mr Guido PODESTÀ (I, UPE) Vice-President of the EP

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Mr Felipe CAMISÓN ASENSIO	(ES, PPE)	Petitions

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Mr James PROVAN	(UK, PPE)	Fisheries
Mrs Renate HEINISCH	(D, PPE)	Women's Rights

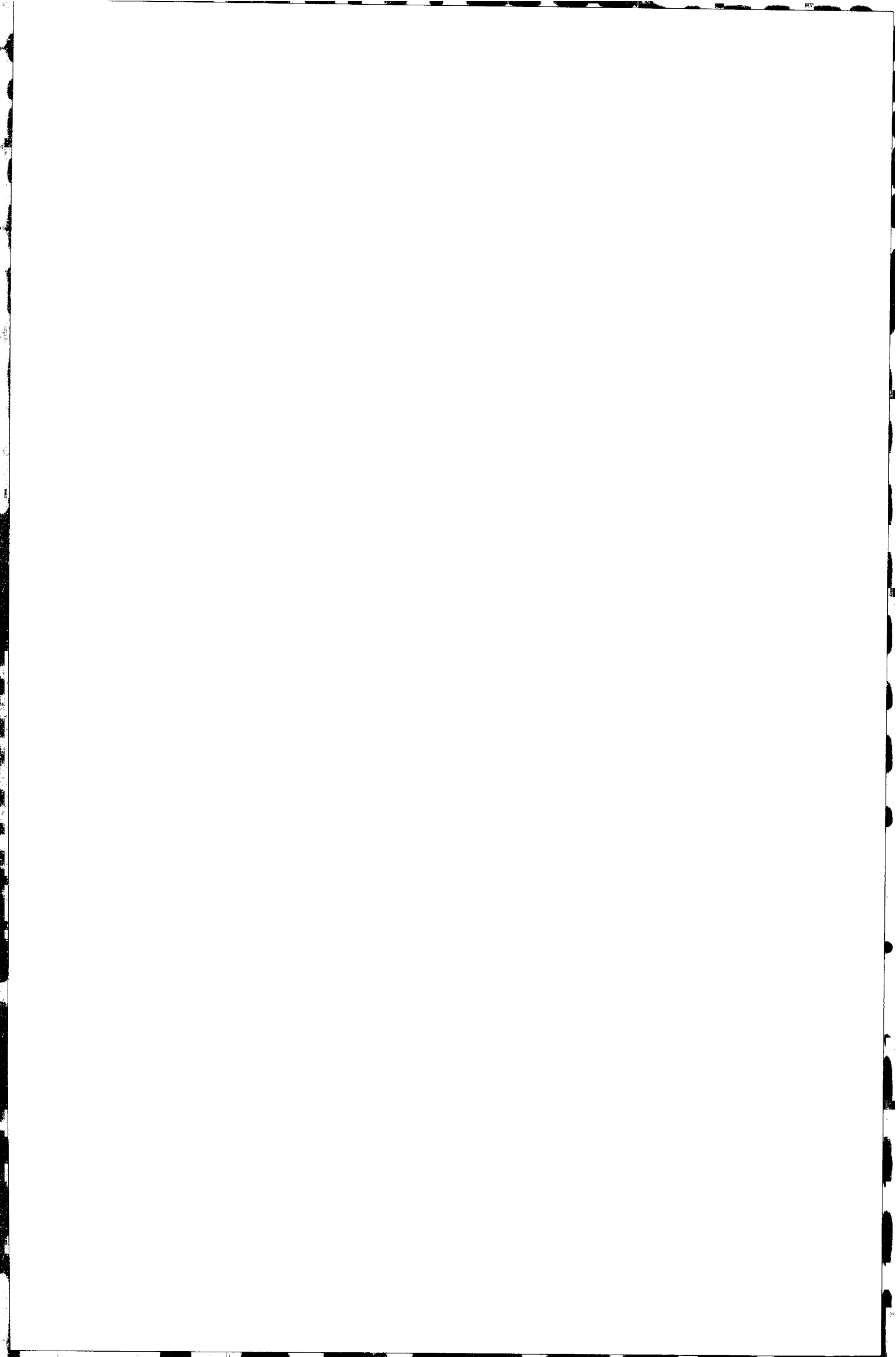
ONLY THE MEMBERS NAMED ABOVE HAVE THE **RIGHT TO VOTE** AT THE
STOA PANEL MEETINGS.

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STOA Unit			
HOLDSWORTH, Dick	Head of Unit	4300-22511 28-43747	SCH 4/81 EAS 113
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SERCU, Karin	Secretary	28-43748	EAS 112
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GUERRA, María Luisa	Secretary	4300-23424	SCH 6/27
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