

information management

Second report on the activities of the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology of the European Communities

(March 1974 — July 1975)

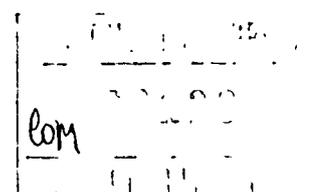


COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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(March 1974 — July 1975)



Directorate-General 'Scientific and Technical Information
and Information Management', Luxembourg

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and Information Management '**

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A B S T R A C T

The main feature of CIDST's activities during 1974 and 1975 has been that of advising the Commission on the drawing up and execution of an initial three-year plan of action for the implementation of a European network for scientific and technical information (EURONET). The plan, which covers the years 1975-1977, was adopted by the Council of Ministers on March 1975.

The report is in five sections. Section I deals with matters of a general nature, whilst sections 2 and 3 are devoted to the activities of CIDST and those of its working groups respectively. Section 4 provides a brief description of the national programmes for scientific and technical information and documentation in the Member States. Finally, section 5 sets down the report's conclusions and suggests a second plan of action aimed at the successful establishment of EURONET.

C O N T E N T S

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	Page
1. General	7
2. Committee Activities	7
3. Activities of the Working Groups and Systems	16
4. National programmes	25
5. Conclusions	33
APPENDIX I. List of Committee delegates and their deputies	35
APPENDIX II. CIDST recommendations on Commu- nity funding of conversion opera- tions related to the European scientific and technical informa- tion network.	40
APPENDIX III. Resolution agreed by CIDST on 9 July 1975 following the discussion of the EURONET Implementation Study by PANDATA.	41
APPENDIX IV. Annual Report for 1974 on the activities INIS/ENDS.	44

SECOND REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

(March 1974-July 1975)

1. General

1.1. The Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) was set up by the Council of Ministers' Resolution of 24 June 1971 and began its work in March 1972. The first report on the Committee's activities covered the first two years of operation (1), and this second report covers the period March 1974 to July 1975.

1.2. Between March 1974 and July 1975, the Committee held 5 meetings (2). At its meeting on 19-21 March 1975, the appointments of the delegates to the CIDST (3) were renewed by their national authorities for a further period of three years. At the same time, Mr. C. GILES was unanimously reelected Chairman of the Committee for a three-year term of office, while Messrs. J. DELORME and W. RENAUD were elected Vice-Chairmen in succession to Dr. M. CREMER and Professor P. BISOGNO, who were retiring from office. The services of the Commission continue to provide the Secretariat of the Committee (in the person of Mr. E. GURA).

1.3. Sections 2 and 3 of this report concentrate on the work of the CIDST and its working groups in 1974/1975, while Section 4 features national programmes. Section 5 attempts to evaluate the work of the Committee to date and to look towards the future.

2. Committee Activities

2.1. First three-year plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation

2.1.1. In its scientific and technological policy programme of 25 July 1973, the Commission reviewed the situation in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation, and outlined a plan of action. In its Resolution of 14 January 1974 (4) concerning a first programme of action for the European Communities in the field of science

(1) Published as Doc. EUR 5177 (dan,d,e,f,i,n) in September 1974.

(2) 28-29 March 1974; 17-19 July 1974; 3-5 December 1974; 19-21 March 1975; 7-9 July 1975.

(3) See Appendix I for the list of delegates and their deputies, where nominated.

(4) O.J. n° C 7 of 29 January 1974.

and technology, the Council of Ministers noted with interest the Commission's intention to present to it proposals for actions with regard to scientific and technical information.

It seemed clear, both to the CIDST and to the Commission, that technical and commercial developments in this field had become so rapid and so fragmented that there was a considerable risk that the establishment of a coordinated European information and documentation network would become impossible if action were not taken without delay. With the assistance of the CIDST, the Commission submitted to the Council a three-year plan of action which would provide for the transition from the exploratory to the experimental stage of such a network.

The plan concentrates on the development of sectoral information systems, e.g. in the agricultural, environmental, and metallurgical fields, and on a number of evaluation and pilot projects to enable a start to be made on launching an operational information network, and for support action especially in the fields of information research, training, standardization and techniques for multilingual access to information systems.

This plan of action has been the main concern of the Committee during 1974 and 1975.

In March 1974, the CIDST gave its opinion both to the Commission and to the Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST) (5) on the proposed plan of action, recommending to the Commission that it should propose the plan immediately to the Council of Ministers.

2.1.2. The three-year plan of action was examined in the early summer of 1974 by CREST. The actions proposed in the plan were, in principle, approved. However, CREST expressed reservations on the financing of the conversion and adaptation of existing information services to the European information network and asked the CIDST to reexamine this issue.

(5) Set up by the Council's resolution of 14 January 1974 (J.O. n° C 7 of 29 January 1974).

In CREST's view, conversions should, in principle, be financed by national budgets with limited Community support.

In September 1974, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a decision on the first three-year plan of action.

2.1.3. Before taking a final decision on the Commission's proposals, the Council of Ministers consulted the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament on the plan. On 19 December 1974, the Economic and Social Committee unanimously approved the Commission's proposals, but stressed that in its view more importance should be attached to economic and social information in the plan of action.

On 13 January 1975, the European Parliament also approved the plan of action, and requested the Commission to include in its annual general report to the Council and to the Parliament a detailed account of progress in its execution.

On 18 March 1975, the proposed plan of action was adopted by the Council of Ministers to take effect for three years as from 1 January 1975 (6).

2.2. Programme for 1976

2.2.1. Discussions at the CIDST's meeting of 19-21 March 1975 resulted in a consensus on the programme of action for 1976, although different ideas were expressed on the order of priority to be given to some items in the programme.

2.2.2. The question of financing the measures to be taken for the conversion and adaptation of existing information services to the European information network was tackled again, and as a result of these further discussions, the CIDST was able to draw up recommendations on the subject (7).

2.2.3. On the basis of the CIDST's discussion and comments, the Commission submitted to CREST on 25 April 1975 its programme of activities for 1976. At its meeting of 27 June 1975, CREST discussed the programme and issued an opinion endorsing the proposals put forward by the CIDST and the Commission. In doing this, it took note of a German wish to develop and operate the physical network for EURONET through the national postal authorities, having previously clarified the costs so arising. Moreover, CREST requested a slight reduction of the estimates contained in the 1976 budgetary proposals to 2.15 million units of account.

(6) O.J. L 100 of 21 April 1975

(7) See Appendix II

2.3. Structures for the European Information Network

2.3.1. At its meeting of 3-5 December 1974, the CIDST asked a small drafting group to prepare a basic document on key problems likely to arise out of the structuring of the European information and documentation network and to list the fundamental decisions that needed to be adopted by the CIDST.

2.3.2. The subject had already been considered by a CIDST ad hoc group which met in September 1974 to exchange views on the organization and management structure of sectoral activities; on the basis of these discussions, the services of the Commission prepared an initial draft for a basic document.

2.3.3. The Committee examined the draft at its March 1975 meeting and proposed some modifications. The decision on the organisation and management of the European information network is to become the subject of a separate document.

2.4. Implementation of the European Information Network

2.4.1. To prepare for the planning and development of the European information network, various studies have been undertaken. An inventory of data bases and information services was begun, based on existing inventories and data collected by means of a questionnaire. A forecast of usage of on-line retrieval services in Europe for 1976-1985 was made for the Commission in November 1974 by P.A. International Management Consultants Ltd. The Committee asked its working groups to examine this study and to consider the forecast of user needs in their respective sectors.

2.4.2. A second step was the undertaking of a feasibility study on a telecommunications network. Shortly after its creation in December 1973, CIDST's Technical Aspects Group identified the need for detailed investigations into potential telecommunications facilities for the European information network. In particular, it was felt that the following areas required early study :

- . review of facilities offered by the PTTs, third party networks, and the practicability of the EEC developing its own telecommunications network;
- . preparation of a specification for a detailed study into the steps required to establish data communications facilities for the information network;
- . identification of additional data and studies necessary to complement the detailed study;
- . recommendations on the procedure for selecting consultants to undertake such a study.

A sub-group, the "Telecommunications Task Force", was created by the Technical Aspects Group (TAG) to investigate these matters. TAG reported to the CIDST at its March 1975 meeting, with the recommendation that a feasibility study be carried out on the telecommunications network to identify the technical alternatives and to propose specifications.

The Committee approved the principle of a feasibility study and the services of the Commission expressed their willingness to take account of the Committee's recommendations on the choice of a suitable consultant to carry out such a study.

PANDATA BV, Netherlands, was awarded the contract for the feasibility study. The findings of the study were discussed by the CIDST at its July 1975 meeting, on the basis of an opinion worked out at a joint meeting of the Technical Aspects and Economic and Financial Aspects Groups of the CIDST.

As a result of this discussion, the CIDST formulated a resolution (8), in which they considered that the solution proposed by PANDATA was technically feasible. The Committee also recommended that a pilot physical network should be implemented by, or under the jurisdiction of, the combined PTTs of the Member States of the Community, bearing in mind the economic and financial aspects, and that the management of the network should become the responsibility of the combined PTTs, in close contact with the Community. The Committee was further of the opinion that all software options and their full implications should be further investigated in consultation with the combined PTTs.

In consequence, discussions are being held with the PTTs on their involvement in the EURONET project (see 2.4.4.).

(8) See Appendix III : resolution of 9 July 1975

2.4.3. In order to incorporate, where possible, existing information services in a European information and documentation network, discussions have been started by the services of the Commission with, amongst others, the European Space Research Organization (ESRO), now the European Space Agency (ESA), with a view to integrating the latter's space documentation service into the network. These discussions have been reported to the CIDST and are continuing.

Negotiations are also in progress with representatives of the COST 11 project (9).

2.4.4. At its March and July 1975 meetings, the CIDST received a progress report on discussions with the national PTTs on the provision of adequate, Community-wide data transmission facilities for the European information network within the next five to ten years.

2.5. Integration of existing data bases and systems

2.5.1. Whilst every encouragement will be given to establishing, where appropriate, new sectoral information systems, the European network programme has been based on the practical consideration that existing systems must be central to a developing network and, at its March 1974 meeting, the CIDST pointed out that as many existing systems as possible should make use of the technical network.

2.5.2. The data bases of the European Nuclear Documentation System (ENDS) and the International Nuclear Information System (INIS), which hitherto have been used as a basis for the nuclear documentation services of the Commission, should as far as possible be made accessible via the European network. The Committee was informed at its March 1975 meeting that the Commission was considering a possible transfer of the running of these data bases to a national centre in order to relieve it of certain operational tasks and enable it to concentrate on its management tasks.

2.5.3. The Second Provisional Technical Agreement covering the System for Documentation and Information on Metallurgy (SDIM), which came into

(9) The code name for the European Informatics Network (EIN), which is an experimental scheme designed to demonstrate how computer resources, originally located in the London area, Paris, Zürich, Milan and Ispra could be shared and, at the same time, to prove the feasibility of the related advanced telecommunications technology.

force on 1 April 1975, provides a new working basis for this activity until 31 December 1977, by which time it should be clear what form of organization for SDIM would be best suited to the requirement of its participation in the European information network. During that period and before a final agreement can be signed, certain technical problems, such as the revision of the multilingual thesaurus, will have to be tackled in order to improve the system and make it compatible with other existing systems.

2.5.4. At the July 1975 meeting of the CIDST, the German delegation proposed terms of reference for an ad hoc group to study information in the physics/mathematics sector.

2.5.5. The CIDST has also been asked to consider the project for a European Documentation and Information System on Education (EUDISED), which may subsequently be suitable for incorporation in the European information network.

2.5.6. Other information systems, including those which cover the fields of economic and social information, are also being studied with a view to their possible incorporation in the European information network. One should point out here that in the CIDST's view the future telecommunications network should be open to any service supplier who can meet the requirements of the network.

2.6. New fields of activity

2.6.1. At its March 1974 meeting, the Committee set up an ad hoc group to consider the best way of making known the results of energy research and to say whether a proposal should be made for the establishment of a working group to develop an information system in this field.

On the basis of recommendations formulated by this group, the CIDST decided at its July 1974 meeting that the main tasks of the group should be to draw up an inventory of Community energy information sources and, on the basis of this, to put forward proposals for action with a view to developing cooperation between existing information services and to filling any gaps revealed. At its July 1975 meeting, the CIDST asked the ad hoc group to consider the question of including nuclear energy under "Energy".

2.6.2. Since the setting up of inventories of research and development projects has been gaining more and more importance in several working groups, the CIDST decided to explore the possibility of coordinating the methodology for setting up such inventories. An ad hoc group to deal with this topic was set up at the Committee's December 1974 meeting. Steps have been taken to maintain close contact with CREST on this subject.

CIDST's ad hoc inventory group met for the first time in April 1975. It made recommendations on desirable elements of information to be included in inventories, and proposed to recommend that a consultant be engaged to carry out a review of the state-of-the art of establishing R & D inventories in the Community and other countries.

2.6.2. At its March 1975 meeting, the CIDST decided to create a small ad hoc group to examine, on a case by case basis, legal problems arising out of the implementation of the European information and documentation network (e.g. data protection, copyright, data owners' rights).

2.7. Organization and preparation of Committee meetings

Since the workload of the CIDST would be considerably increased by the implementation of the Action Plan, the Committee decided, at its March 1975 meeting, to set up a "Standing Group" to assist in facilitating and preparing the work of the Committee, and to cooperate with the Commission on urgent matters concerning contracts.

The Standing Group is composed of the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of CIDST. Other members of the CIDST may attend the meetings of the Standing Group if they so wish. The chairman of each working group is also invited to participate if important matters submitted by his group are to be discussed.

The Standing Group has met three times, in April and May 1975. They considered a number of projects and concentrated on discussing the basic document (see 2.3.) drawn up by the Commission and made suggestions for the July 1975 meeting of the CIDST.

At its July 1975 meeting, the CIDST defined the future overall procedure for examining proposed studies and contracts and developed guidelines for cooperation between the Standing Group and the CIDST.

2.8. International cooperation

The CIDST has continued to include in its discussions possible cooperation with international organizations.

2.8.1. As referred to in Section 2.4.3., discussions are under way with ESA on possible cooperation and the CIDST is keeping these discussions under review.

2.8.2. The Commission has reported to the CIDST on its informal talks with the COST 11 management (see footnote (9) on page 12). CIDST's working group on technical aspects has been investigating whether and under what conditions the two projects, COST 11 and the telecommunications network for EURONET, could be combined or, alternatively, develop a mutually advantageous cooperation.

2.8.3. The Committee has also been kept informed of current developments in the information sector with regard to UNESCO (10). An agreement was reached between the President of the Commission and the Director General of UNESCO with the aim of establishing a number of joint committees. One such committee was to deal with scientific and technical information, and its first meeting was held in September 1974. The CIDST took note of this meeting, at which points of common interest and modalities and priorities for future cooperation were discussed.

2.8.4. The members of the CIDST continued to keep one another informed of their views on the discussions in OECD's (11) Information Policy Group (IPG) for scientific and technical information.

2.8.5. The CIDST has received a report on the activities of DEVSIS (12). It has asked its Secretariat to keep in contact with the DEVSIS project and report back from time to time on new developments.

(10) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

(11) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

(12) DEVSIS is a proposal for an international information system in the field of economic and social development co-sponsored by the International Development Research Centre, the International Labour Office, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OECD, and UNESCO.

3. Activities of the Working Groups and Systems

3.1. Progress made by the working groups

3.1.1. Technical Aspects of Information

With regard to the implementation of the Community Action Plan, the Technical Aspects Group (TAG) adopted as the basis for its work the following attitude towards the information network :

"The European information network should be considered as a system for making cooperatively available for the benefit of all users in the Community existing and planned IDST resources".

The Group further agreed that the creation of the network should involve in particular :

- improvement and adaptation of existing systems within the Community;
- coordination of their activities;
- cooperative establishment of new information systems;
- coordinated or cooperative utilization of non-Community information resources; and
- provision of appropriate facilities for processing and communication (physical network).

Having identified the need for detailed investigations into potential telecommunications facilities for the European information network, the Group set up a Task Force to carry out these investigations. The Force's subsequent report contained the recommendation that a feasibility study be carried out on the network (see 2.4.2.).

As a result of a seminar entitled "Methodology and validity of user studies", TAG agreed that in principle studies to forecast user demand were highly desirable.

An ad hoc group set up for case studies proposed a working programme to identify the advantages and disadvantages of international cooperation in scientific and technical information systems as compared with purely nationally based systems. After approval of the programme by TAG, a start was made on the data collection. A report on the evaluation of these data is being prepared.

In order to establish an inventory of data bases available within the Community, TAG prepared two questionnaires, one for producers of data bases and one for users of data bases. From the completed questionnaires received from certain Member States, the Group drafted a specification for a contract for the compilation of the collected data.

TAG also recognized the need for a standardised command set for information retrieval in a multi-host network. A specification for a study was therefore prepared.

A research and development plan for multilingual systems has been discussed at several meetings of the Group. TAG proposed a programme for 1975 which would involve a state-of-the art study, support in the field of controlled syntax systems, and development of multilingual thesauri in some sectors. An ad hoc group has been asked to prepare a new draft for a long-term multilingual action programme.

TAG also dealt with the analysis of the Commission's proposal for an on-line retrieval experiment with the INIS data base, discussion of the technique for merging data bases, and the need for standards within the framework of the information network.

3.1.2. Economic and Financial Aspects

In order to streamline the complex work facing the Economic and Financial Aspects Group (EFAG), the Group decided to set up small study groups who would carry out certain tasks at the request of the Group and then report back with their recommendations for a Group decision.

The first study group was given the task of dealing with case and cost studies. Specifications for the following studies were drawn up by the group :

- analysis of various cost studies in connection with the information network;
- extension and revision of a cost/accounting scheme for interactive systems of the network;
- development and use of models for the prediction of costs for alternative information systems; and
- in-depth studies of cooperative information systems with regard to the creation of the European network.



The second study group was required to comment on the report "Forecast of Users of On-line Retrieval Services for Scientific and Technical Information in Europe, 1976-1985" (see 2.4.1.). Whilst not accepting all the views expressed in the report, the group did accept that the demand for on-line services would grow rapidly and that as a result a major market would emerge.

The duties of the third study group were to examine the economic justification of the European information network. The group's work concentrated on the comparison of dial-up lines with leased lines, of star networks with distributed networks and of shared with regional on-line search systems.

At its July 1975 meeting, the CIDST agreed to EFAG's proposal to set up another sub-group to deal with the information flow in EURONET resulting from library activities.

With regard to the setting up of the European information network, EFAG intends to devote attention in the coming year to, inter alia, the following subjects :

- financing policy for the network (harmonisation of subsidies, and financing of adaptation and reorganisation);
- pricing policy (especially for on-line retrieval services);
- market survey, both general and sectoral ones; and
- economics of the various organisational methods of cooperative input.

3.1.3. Training of Specialists in IDST

During the last eighteen months, the Group has dealt with the following matters :

- definition of the term "information specialist" in order to achieve a harmonized definition of this term which would be acceptable to all Member States;
- assessment of the need for specialists over the next ten years on the basis of existing studies;
- comparison of the training of specialists at national level;
- advanced studies and courses at Community level;
- status and careers of information and documentation specialists;
- training of users;
- grants for study, post graduate and research work;

- improvement of links between training and research;
- collection and dissemination of information on training methods;
- seminar for information network managers and instructors;
- case study on staffing requirements for the European information network on the basis of studies of one or more existing networks and
- budgetary provisions for 1975 and 1976.

The Chairman of the Group presented to the CIDST at its July 1975 meeting for approval new draft terms of reference for the Group together with a working programme for 1976. Both the draft terms of reference and the working programme will be discussed at the CIDST's next meetings.

3.1.4. Agriculture

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Agricultural Working Group/ AWG has concentrated its work in the following areas :

1. Coordination and creation of bibliographical data bases

i) Contribution to international systems

Under the organisation of the Member States and the Commission a joint input to EUR-AGRIS (13) is being made. About 15,000 EUR-AGRIS title citations have so far been processed under contract.

Two EUR-AGRIS workshops on cataloguing and indexing problems were organized in Luxembourg between November 1974 and March 1975 for the national input centres of the Community countries.

ii) Systems of special interest to the Community

Steps are being taken to implement a permanent inventory of Agricultural Research Projects (AGREP), based on the Council Regulation n° 1728/74 on the coordination of agricultural research. As a first action, an experimental issue containing about 9,000 project citations was compiled. The software for the next fully computerized phase has been prepared under contract, and the collection of input data for the 1976 edition has been started.

(13) EUR-AGRIS is the Community contribution to the world agricultural bibliography AGRINDEX which has been published monthly since January 1975 by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

With regard to the Agricultural Management Information System (AMIS), preparatory work was carried out for a study of the potential user population and their needs regarding bibliographical and factual information.

iii) Actions directed towards participation in a European information and documentation network

a) Evaluation of data bases of agricultural interest

A combined user and evaluation study of computerized data bases was begun in the field of veterinary sciences. 90 questions were selected from about 650 which were collected in the course of an enquiry involving all potential users in veterinary science. These 90 questions were matched against main data bases and some of the questions against other data bases of supplementary interest to veterinary science. The relevance of the answers is being examined by the users. This study will be completed in early 1976.

Preparatory work was carried out for the evaluation of AGRINDEX in comparison with CAIN (CATaloguing and INdexing data base of the Bibliography of Agriculture).

b) Terminology control

Work has begun on the compilation of multilingual controlled vocabularies in the fields of :

- veterinary science,
 - food science and technology,
 - agricultural policy, agricultural economy and rural sociology (AMIS)
- to be used by the participating centres. These activities are coordinated by a small group of experts (AGRITERM).

Another small group of experts, "DIFLIA", set up to deal with the documentation of agricultural literature in difficult languages (mainly East European) has produced a report for library and documentation centres on existing facilities for accessing information on such literature and for obtaining translations in West European languages. The group has also prepared a leaflet on the same subject for a wider readership.

2. Non-bibliographical data

Preparatory work was carried out on non-bibliographical data (data banks), information transfer and transformation to users of various levels of interest (review articles and others) and on a planning study aimed at the drafting of a medium- and long-term working plan for AWG.

3.1.5. Medicine

The Working Group for Biomedical Information is currently supervising three projects :

- pharmacological data banks;
- terminology and biomedical metalanguages; and
- minimum basic data in medical records.

A sub-group was asked to produce a report on existing pharmacological data banks in the Communities. The sub-group presented in June 1975 a detailed work programme and timetable.

The programme and timetable for carrying out the project on terminology and biomedical metalanguages have been drawn up. A detailed specification and the choice of a consultant to carry out the work are still under consideration by the Group.

At its November 1974 meeting, the Group expressed its agreement that, in view of its specific nature, the minimum basic data project should be studied separately. The original intention had been to incorporate it in the medical terminology project. A sub-group was set up and requested to produce a detailed description and definition of the study as soon as possible. It was also asked to put forward recommendations with regard to the choice of a consultant. The work is to be carried out together with the CREST "Epidemiology" working group. A first joint meeting was planned for Autumn 1975.

3.1.6. Environment

Within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Environment drawn up by the Council of Ministers and in accordance with its terms of reference, CIDST's Working Group on Environmental Information is undertaking a two-fold task in liaison with a group of national experts representing user interests :

- harmonisation of available information services in a uniform network capable of being integrated into the European information network, and into some similar international projects, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- creation of new information services needed to fill gaps left by existing services.

Currently in preparation are inventories of information sources, research projects and centres of excellence. Initial versions will be available in December 1975 and will then represent a Community contribution to UNEP's International Referral System.

Further studies will contribute towards a possible Environment Management Information Network (EMIN).

Several studies have been carried out - on a contractual basis - on the feasibility of information systems for the following topics :

- environmental legislation (ENLEX), in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), taking into account also compatibility with the CELEX project (14);
- conference papers on the environment;
- analysis of information on pollution control technology (TECAS).

After examination of the final reports on these studies, the two groups have produced a list of recommendations for further work in these various fields. A programme of activities has been drawn up for the period ending 1977.

(14) CELEX is the automated system for legal documentation operated within the Commission.

3.1.7. Patents

Since the creation in March 1974, the Working Group "Documentation on Patents" has carried out two projects. In the first, data collected by a survey on the "Analysis of the Needs and Assessment of the Resources in the field of Patent Documentation" have been analysed and a final report prepared. The second project involved the establishment of an inventory of patent documentation and information services.

Three further projects have been started. An abridged version of the inventory is being edited and prepared for publication. A study is being undertaken on the methods used for incorporating patents in existing sectoral information and documentation systems. Finally, national delegations are preparing state-of-the art reports on patent information and documentation within their respective countries.

3.1.8. Energy (see also 2.6.1.)

Up to April 1975, the ad hoc group on Energy Information has dealt with three main topics :

- i) setting up of an "Inventories" sub-group to accelerate the planning and implementation of inventories of literature and sources of information on energy;
- ii) development of a basis for a user requirements study; and
- iii) drawing up of proposals for a study of possible cooperation by the Member States in an existing automated energy information system.

3.2. Existing systems

3.2.1. Nuclear Documentation (15)

At its meeting in May 1974, the Advisory Committee to the European Nuclear Documentation System (ENDS) agreed to the Commission's proposal for an experimental on-line operation of the INIS data base to be carried

(15) Whilst certain political objections prevent for the time being this subject from coming within the Committee's terms of reference, CIDST nevertheless feels the need to maintain its interest in these activities and therefore considers it necessary to mention them here. The ENDS Advisory Committee's own report may be found in Appendix IV to this present report.

out in conjunction with the Netherlands. At the same time, the Committee recommended the setting up of a working group for this experiment. It also consulted CIDST's Technical Aspects Group with a view to adjusting the experiment towards the objectives of the Action Plan. At the first meeting of the new group, it was decided to revise the objectives of the experiment in response to a request from the Technical Aspects Group.

In view of the tasks entailed in implementing the Action Plan, it became obvious that the Commission itself needed to consider decentralising its routine operations, especially with regard to nuclear documentation. Accordingly, negotiations are currently being conducted with certain national centres on the possibility of transferring to them the operation of on-going ENDS/INIS activities.

3.2.2. Metallurgy

The terms of a new Provisional Technical Agreement for the purpose of continuing the activities of the System for Documentation and Information on Metallurgy (SDIM) were approved by the SDIM Management Committee and the CIDST, and the new agreement (PTA II), which came into force on 1 April 1975, will expire on 31 December 1977.

To expedite its technical work, the SDIM Committee set up two working parties. Problems connected with the thesaurus were discussed by the first working party which proposed that the structure should be revised and corrections made to the linguistic equivalents. Part of the revision work, which was contracted out, is already being carried out.

The second working party studied the format of input forms for cataloguing other types of literature (at present, only articles from periodicals are stored in the data base) and the allocation of additional journals to the contributing centres. The party also discussed methods of improving the quality of the data base (e.g. training of indexers).

The situation in June 1975 concerning input forms received from the various contributing centres is as follows :

Federal Republic of Germany	27,893
Belgium	3,179
France	9,234
Luxembourg	110
United Kingdom	4,899
Ireland	296
Netherlands	50
Commission	2,564
Total	48,225

94 % of the references to the documents received are accessible on magnetic tape while their abstracts are available in microfiche form.

In order to achieve a real harmonisation of the SDIM data base, a check on indexing consistency was made with the aid of various contributors to the SDIM.

4. National programmes (16)

Only the main outlines of the various national programmes for scientific and technical information and documentation are described in this report.

4.1. Belgium

On 29 March 1973, the Minister for Scientific Policy assigned to the "Commission interministérielle de la politique scientifique" (CIPS) the task of drawing up a national IDST policy and, in particular, of preparing an initial IDST programme. To assist it in these tasks, the CIPS set up an IDST working party in which the government departments most directly concerned with these questions were represented.

The IDST working party set up by the CIPS created study groups to prepare the main projects in the IDST programme and to supervise them while they were in progress.

(16) Compiled on the basis of information supplied by the national delegations to the CIDST.

On 2 August 1974, the Council of Ministers approved the proposed IDST programme, the first in this field, for the period 1975 to 1978.

The initial programme comprises four projects :

- exploitation of documentary data bases;
- union catalogue - cooperative cataloguing;
- training of specialists and users;
- inventory of Belgian IDST resources.

The basic aims are to create favourable conditions for subsequently carrying out more ambitious projects, such as creating data bases, setting up a university training course for IDST specialists, and to meet immediate needs.

4.2. Denmark

The Danish Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (DANDOK) acts as the national focal point for formulating policy on the utilization in Denmark of scientific and technical information and documentation.

DANDOK has existed since 1970 as an advisory body for all government departments regarding IDST. In spring 1974, DANDOK was given the following revised terms of reference :

- planning coordination within the field of scientific and technical information and documentation, including related research and education;
- advising public and private authorities and institutions on all IDST questions;
- preparing and evaluating Danish contributions to international cooperation in the field of IDST.

4.3. Federal Republic of Germany

Following consultations with a specialised committee for data processing and documentation and with other advisory groups and experts in the relevant fields, the Bundesministerium für Forschung und Technologie (Ministry for Research and Technology) drew up a national programme ("IuD-Programm" - 1974-1977) which was passed by the German Federal Government on 17 December 1974.

With a view to implementing the individual measures in the programme, negotiations with the Länder and representatives of the relevant institutions have already been initiated.

In view of the marked growth in knowledge and the increasing need for information in modern society, the "IuD-Programm" intends to encourage and assist the expansion of scientific and technical information services. It proposes to guarantee improved access to all information in the various sectors so that existing knowledge may be directed towards solving scientific, economic, technical, political, and social problems and that duplication of effort and needless spending of money may be avoided. The aim of the promotional measures envisaged in the "IuD-Programm" is to contribute to international data exchange and promote European integration.

In the forefront of the programme is the gradual creation and utilization of efficient information tools, namely :

- some 16 sectoral information systems for the larger, related fields in science and technology, and
- a number of information tools with particular regard for environment, patents, technical standards, and research information for example.

Closely related to this is a wider field which is to be promoted in the programme: the creation of an efficient information and documentation infrastructure by means of :

- establishment and expansion of a "Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation" with its central rôle as focal point;
- encouragement of research and development in the information field;
- promotion of central library projects;
- support for the training of the rising scientific and technical generation;
- standardization;
- improvement of technical aids.

A study group composed in particular of national information centres and the "Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation" as focal point for the information and documentation infrastructure shall have the task of coordinating the whole network of scientific and technical information systems.

Questions relating to scientific and technical information and documentation, which are of interest both to the country as a whole and the individual Länder, are to be dealt with by a committee comprised of representatives of the Federal Republic and the Länder.

4.4. France

The Bureau National de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (BNIST), established on 5 February 1973, has the responsibility of putting forward guidelines for national policy on IDST, drawing up measures to implement such a policy, and finally putting into effect the measures adopted by the Government.

BNIST consists of a Management Committee made up of seven representatives of the State and 16 representatives of the scientific and technical community. These representatives are supported by a Permanent Secretariat. BNIST also has its own budget (FF 7.5 million in 1974 and FF 9 million in 1975).

How does the BNIST operate?

It operates by means of contracts which it grants to various bodies according to the broad lines of its policy : support for sectoral networks, systems improvement (multilingualism), development of new systems (TITUS), basic studies (software, data banks), information science research, etc.

The BNIST is meant to play a stimulating rôle : it provides temporary support in a given sector or for a given project in order that a start may be made. There is no question whatsoever of subsidies; other bodies whose interests coincide with the overall scientific and technical information policy instituted by the BNIST must then take over.

In relation to the various documentation centres in France (large research bodies, technical centres, specialist centres, centres in the private sector), BNIST plays a coordinating rôle. It has no actual power to impose its policy on the various centres; but, having its own budget, it does have considerable influence because it only grants funds to bodies which share the main lines of its policy.

Lastly, BNIST plays an interministerial rôle in the field of scientific and technical information, its policy and the implementing measures for this being determined by agreement with the various ministries concerned, which are in any case represented on the BNIST Management Committee.

Areas in which the BNIST is active

The BNIST has so far directed its efforts towards the following :

- Creation of a national scientific and technical information network with general services (Service National d'Orientation SOS-DOC and Regional Agencies which act as links mainly with small- and medium-sized industries). The national network is based on a sectoral organization which coordinates the action of the various existing centres and can take various forms : sector whose organization is based on participation in an international system (nuclear sector), use of a foreign data base with the creation of a dissemination centre (chemical sector), orientation towards multi-lingualism as part of participation in a Community system (metallurgy sector), etc.

- Automation

The BNIST finances basic studies on documentary software, data banks, COM, etc. It gives financial support to the Cyclades network into which French data bases are to be progressively incorporated to form part of the future European network.

- Training

In order to evolve a coherent training policy for specialists, the BNIST is at present financing a study to estimate the scale and type of requirements for the future. In conjunction with the ministries concerned, a policy for promoting user awareness is soon to be established.

- Research

An inventory financed by the BNIST has shown that research on information science in France should be more advanced. To bridge the gap, the BNIST has invited tenders for various subjects and is spending the order of FF 1.3 million to this end in 1975. It intends to continue playing a stimulating rôle in this field.

- International cooperation

The BNIST is responsible for cooperation with various international organizations, either directly or through experts to whom it transmits its directives (EEC, UNESCO, UNISIST, OECD, ICSU/AB, CODATA, FID, FAO).

At the same time it pursues a policy of bilateral cooperation with various countries, either for the sake of better coordination of activities in the field of scientific and technical information or in order to enable these countries to benefit from the experience it has gained.

- Popular dissemination of scientific knowledge

The BNIST has till now hardly touched on this last aspect of its activities. The popular dissemination of scientific knowledge both through the mass media and through scientific literature is an area in which, as from 1976, it intends to be more active in future.

4.5. Ireland

In August 1974 the Irish Government decided to set up a National Board for Science and Technology, as recommended by the Examiners in the joint OECD/Irish Government review of Irish science policy issued in March 1973. When the necessary legislation has been passed, the National Board for Science and Technology will take over the functions of the National Science Council and will be the body to which Government will refer for advice on all scientific and technological policies. The Board will advise on the preparation of development plans of STI services and coordinate them.

Pending the establishment of the Board, the National Science Council has set up a Documentation Coordinating Committee with the task of extending and formalising the existing embryonic library network by bringing together into the framework of one effective organisation all the present scattered activities. Membership of the Committee consists of experts drawn from the National Science Council, research institutes, higher education, and library services.

The Committee is at present beginning its activities, and is also preparing for consultations with the relevant organisations.

4.6. Italy

Although there is still no formal national information policy in Italy, some partial studies on information policy do exist. There are moreover organisations and individuals concerned with the dissemination of information at various levels, and these generally form pressure groups which seek to encourage official bodies to draw up a clear policy on information.

Their efforts have hitherto had limited success, but they did lead, in June 1974, to the setting up by the Minister for the Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research of a Committee for International Cooperation on Scientific Information. Among the committee's tasks are the supervision and coordination of the various Italian contributions to international cooperation in the IDST field.

4.7. Luxembourg

In March 1974, the Government entrusted the Centre Informatique de l'Etat (National Information Processing Centre) with the task of automating the management systems of the public administrations. In order to carry out this task, the Centre is currently devising a long-term information processing plan.

4.8. Netherlands

The Nederlands Orgaan voor de Bevordering van de Informatieverzorging (NOBIN) has responsibility for being the focal point for IDST policy in the Netherlands. One of its duties is to liaise with the various government departments and coordinate at the national level their activities in the IDST field. These departments are represented on the Board of NOBIN. Much attention is being given to NOBIN as an international focal point for IDST policy, and this receives full support from all the government departments.

NOBIN has drafted a proposal for a national IDST policy plan ("Bevordering van de informatieverzorging in Nederland", 's-Gravenhage, NOBIN, 360 p.) which is now being discussed at the national level within the professional organisations. Included in the draft are medium- and long-term policy plans as well as a short-term operational programme. Attention is being directed towards the harmonisation of the existing policy plans in the field of documentation, libraries and archives, which are being seen as sectors of an overall national IDST policy.

NOBIN is currently devising a plan to set up a small administrative body for the input and output of scientific and technical information. At the moment discussions are being held as to whether there is also a need for a central executive organisation for IDST, as mentioned in the draft NOBIN policy plan.

4.9. United Kingdom

Each Government department has responsibility for ensuring an adequate provision of scientific and technical information in its field of interest. Indeed with the emergence of departmental interests in information (notably in industry, agriculture, environment and health) and the growth of international cooperation, it has become important to extend and formalise the ad hoc arrangements for cooperation on national policy that were built up in the days of the Office for Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) (17).

The Department of Education and Science has overall responsibility for harmonisation at interdepartmental and intergovernmental levels, although it has arranged to delegate a large number of functions to the newly formed British Library which now includes OSTI. The Department of Education and Science is being helped by a new Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Scientific and Technical Information which "provides for the discussion and harmonisation of Government policy in the field of scientific and technical information including its international aspects".

Ever since the establishment of OSTI in 1965, the Government has given priority to the support of research and development, especially :

- computerisation of the main services in the United Kingdom, notably INSPEC and the British National Bibliography;
- experiments with computer-based bibliographic systems in the English language. In the last year these have included the creation of an experimental network of on-line services in order to promote study of the technical, operational, and economic problems of using these services;
- data compilation (a United Kingdom contribution to the ICSU/CODATA programme);
- projects which make possible a systematic approach to
 - a) the automation of library procedure, and
 - b) other library management problems;

(17) OSTI joined the British Library in April 1974, and is now known as the British Library Research and Development Department.

- study of user needs and practices, especially through the use of liaison officers and experiments in user training;
- development, in universities, of information services comparable to those in Government and industrial bodies;
- basic research in information science.

Further priority has been given to building up a sufficient amount and variety of education and training in information science and to develop, with changing needs, the already existing provision for education and training in librarianship.

5. Conclusions

In 1975, the CIDST and its working groups are in the first year of the three-year Action Plan for scientific and technical information and documentation. The majority of the current activities are nevertheless only in the preparatory phase towards the initial stages of creating a European network.

The elaboration of basic principles for the future work of the CIDST and its working groups clearly shows that the views and positions of the national delegations are gradually moving towards consensus.

After a thorough discussion of the feasibility study prepared by PANDATA BV, a resolution (18) reflecting this general consensus was adopted by the Committee on 9 July 1975 and will serve as a guideline for short- and medium-term planning.

All Member States now agree in principle that the creation, shaping, and operating of the European telecommunications sector must come within the competence and responsibility of the postal authorities, who should act in close cooperation with the Community authorities.

(18) See Appendix III.

In these various ways, the provisions contained in the Council's Resolution of 24 June 1971 (19) are being carried out. These require that in order gradually to establish a European documentation and information network, Member States shall coordinate their action regarding :

- a) the encouragement of initiatives of whatever origin for the creation and rational development of scientific and technical information and documentation systems, so that through their permanent association a European network will be established;
- b) the drawing up of rules and procedures aimed at ensuring the cohesiveness of such a network;
- c) the encouragement of the training of specialists and the education of users;
- d) the encouragement of technological progress in the science and processing of documentation.

According to the first Action Plan for IDST and the Council Decision of 18 March 1975, future work needs to be carried out in the following areas :

1. sectoral information and documentation systems;
2. the European documentation and information network (EURONET);
3. information methodology and technology.

The work in these fields must be carried out simultaneously, although time delays in some important aspects of the work cannot be ruled out, since these various fields of activity cannot be tackled independently of one another, but rather they should be developed in an interactive way.

In this context, the CIDST will consider to what extent and under what conditions access to the network might be available to Third countries.

Available or on-going studies give every reason to hope that sufficient experience will be gained from the development phase of the European information network and sectoral information systems, and that this will provide the basis for a second Action Plan aimed at the successful establishment of the European information and documentation network which will have as its primary objective the requirements of the future users of EURONET.

(19) See the CIDST's first activities report, published as doc. EUR 5177.

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Luxembourg, 21 March 1975

CIDST RECOMMENDATIONS

on Community funding of conversion operations
related to the European scientific and technical information network

The CIDST

- recommends that a sum not exceeding 15% of the Community credits for the Plan of Action in 1976-77 should be set aside to cover one-off expenditures ("investments") for
 - adaptations of data bases which are specifically recommended by sectoral groups;
 - adaptations of information services which are designed not for the benefit of one service but for general use; for example, software development for linking host computers to the network;
 - recommends that the employment of these credits be considered as an exploratory phase with a view to establishing later agreed methodology and budgets for further plans of action, should these be agreed, as well as to ensure at least the minimal entry necessary into the network at an early stage;
 - recommends that for all operations of this kind, except those which concern software interface between host computers and the network nodes, a Community funding is in principle only granted if at least half the expenditure is financed from national funds;
 - intends, when examining individual cases, to recommend whether the beneficiary organisations should be asked to reimburse, in part or in whole, the Community contributions they have received;
 - recommends that the respective members of CIDST, as responsible for framing the CIDST policies of the Member States, do their utmost to ensure the provision of such matching funds in all cases where the operation is requested by CIDST and the Commission;
 - and, finally, recommends that all cases where such provision is not possible be motivated and brought to the attention of the CIDST and its members.
-

APPENDIX III

COMMISSION
OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Doc.: CIDST/180/75 final

Luxembourg, 10 July, 1975

Committee for Information
and Documentation on Science
and Technology (CIDST)

Secretariat

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH
COMMITTEE

Committee
for Information and Documentation
on Science and Technology

Subject: Resolution agreed by CIDST on 9 July, 1975
following the discussion of the EURONET
Implementation Study by PANDATA.

Resolution agreed by CIDST on 9 July, 1975

following the discussion of the EURONET Implementation Study by PANDATA

The following set of recommendations represents the consensus of opinion reached at the CIDST meeting of 7 - 9 July 1975, on the basis of:

- the PANDATA report of June 1975;
- the TAG/EFAG recommendations of 1 July 1975 and the advice of EFAG on Doc. CIDST/141/75,

and is intended to provide the Commission with guidelines for further work, especially with the PTTs, in the coming months.

The CIDST:

1. Considers that the solution proposed by PANDATA is technically feasible and recommends that the views of CSTD (of CEPT) on the PANDATA report, including appendices, be sought at the earliest possible time;
2. Recommends that, in consultation with the combined PTTs, the EIN and other software options and their full implications be further investigated;
3. Considers that the time-scale for implementation of the physical network is yet to be worked out and recommends that the final decision on the network solution should await the results of the Pilot Phase;
4. Recommends that, in the forthcoming consultations with the combined PTTs, involving some consultation between CSTD and CIDST, the PTTs should be invited to indicate what interim and/or medium-term solution they themselves could offer and how they assess the relative suitability of other solutions;
5. Recommends that the physical network be implemented by, or under the jurisdiction of, the combined PTTs bearing in mind the economic and financial aspects;
6. Considers it desirable that the management of the physical network should become the responsibility of the combined PTTs, in close contact with the Community;

.../...

7. Expresses its marked preference for providing three access nodes and linking to the network two host computers during the Pilot Phase, the aim being to increase the number of hosts as quickly as possible, following **successful completion of the Pilot Phase**;
 8. Recognises the value of the ESA/SDS contribution, but recommends that it should be restricted to contributions in kind, excluding any cash transfers, and further recommends that suitable arrangements be made to safeguard the rights of Community countries and of ESA countries with due regard to their respective share in financing;
 9. Considers that in principle ESA/SDS (as space documentation data base) should be viewed in the same way as any other potential host computer centre, but recognises the need for arrangements to be made in order to safeguard ESA/SDS commitments to current users both inside and outside the European Community;
 10. Recognises that the EFAG programme, notably the recent report by DIEBOLD, has indicated the need for further more detailed work on the financial aspects of EURONET, including long-term cost-benefit studies and the principles of long-term financing;
 11. Requests the Commission to consult the "Standing Group" on all matters of principle arising out of the above recommendations, notably on apportioning the financial burden and including the evaluation of options, and to report on the progress achieved to CIDST at its November, 1975, meeting, and requests that TAG and EFAG, in their respective fields of competence, further analyse the PANDATA report and appendices.
-

COMMISSION
OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Doc. CIDST/169/75

Luxembourg, 19 March 1975

Committee for Information
and Documentation on Science
and Technology (CIDST)

Secretariat

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH
COMMITTEE

Committee
for Information and Documentation
on Science and Technology

Subject: Annual report for 1974 on the activities INIS/ENDS.

1. Meetings of the ENDS Advisory Committee ("Super TRANCHE")

The Advisory Committee met three times in 1974: on 25 January, 27 May and 10 December. At the meeting of 27 May it was decided to set up a technical working party for the on-line experiment.

2. Activities of the Committee

The main points considered by the Committee were as follows :

- future activities of the Commission in the field of nuclear information and documentation ;
- the introduction of charges for the use of ENDS services;
- an experimental on-line operation of the INIS data base;
- the effect of the STID Action Plan on nuclear documentation.

The recommendations of the Committee with respect to the future activities of the Commission in the field of nuclear documentation are based largely on two factors: the operating efficiency achieved by INIS since 1973, which in the opinion of the Committee renders the continuation of ENDS input activities largely superfluous, and the operation of the INIS magnetic tapes by a number of national nuclear documentation centres, at least as far as SDI services are concerned.

The Committee accordingly agreed

- to keep the ENDS data base as a "closed system" and the access to it for Retrospective Searches;
- to operate the INIS data base for an experimental period, after which the question should again be reviewed;
- to transfer, as soon as possible, the SDI profiles to the National Centres, also for the elaboration of profiles;

Some countries wanted to keep, for the moment, the opportunity to use the services of the Commission for their SDI.

No agreement was reached on a scale of charges. The Committee therefore decided to await the guidelines and recommendations of the "Economic and Financial Aspects Group" (EFAG) of the CIDST.

The Committee agreed to the Commission's proposal regarding experimental on-line operation of the INIS files. Some national representatives nominated members for the technical working party to be set up for the purpose of advising the Commission on the on-line experiment, and stated their interest in principle in having the INIS files available with on-line access. At the last meeting of the Committee, held on 10 December 1974, the Belgian representatives offered on-line access to INIS files, for the proposed experiment and to all other interested users in the Member States.

In connection with the Action Plan of the Communities in the field of STID, the Committee took the view that the incorporation of nuclear documentation in the planned EURONET is desirable and that the possibilities of doing so should be examined in good time, also in the content of the on-line experiment.

3. ENDS on-line Working Group

This Working Group is to advise the Commission while the on-line experiment is in progress. The representatives of Belgium, France, Italy and the Netherlands nominated members for it. In addition, the Technical Aspects Group (TAG) of CIDST will be represented in the ENDS on-line Working Group. The first meeting will be held on 6 March 1975.

4. Activities of the Commission

4.1 Input of Documents

In view of the recommendations of the ENDS-Advisory Committee it was decided to discontinue the input of documents to ENDS. During the first few months of the year only those documents which had been issued before the end of 1973 were stored. At the cessation of input approximately 1.5 million documents were stored in ENDS.

The Commission's contribution to INIS was 306 documents in 1974. The input to INIS was transmitted on behalf of the Commission by the CEA at Saclay, together with the French contribution to INIS.

4.2 Documentation Services

The number of retrospective searches carried out was 371; further details are set out in Annex I. In the field of SDI, 327 profiles were passed on to three national documentation centres, in accordance with the decision of the Advisory Committee; they can be broken down as follows:

Federal Republic of Germany	218	SDI Profiles
France	74	" "
United Kingdom	35	" "

Following this changeover, it was left to users to decide whether SDI services of the Commission should be cancelled. By the end of 1974 the Commission was still handling 782 SDI profiles. These were processed by March 1974 with the ENDS material stored up to the end of 1973. Since February 1974 the SDI profiles have been processed on behalf of the Commission with INIS documents by the Danish Atomic Energy Commission (DAEC), the profiles still being elaborated by the Commission. The Commission has signed a corresponding contract with DAEC for this SDI service.

4.3 Thesaurus Activities

The use of various versions of the Thesaurus (ENDS, INIS) for the indexing, input and retrieval of documents has led in the past to a situation of incompatibility within the system, so that the documents indexed with the new INIS Thesaurus terms from 1972 onwards were not available for retrieval. The work carried out on the Thesaurus in 1974 was therefore aimed mainly at making the ENDS Thesaurus compatible with the INIS Thesaurus, so that all recent documents are accepted by the system and can be retrieved. In that connection, the latest issue of the INIS Thesaurus and also the older ENDS terms no longer used in INIS should be usable for retrieval from the whole system. For these old ENDS terms the hierarchical structures were changed so as to correspond to the INIS structures. In 1974 this work entailed 44 300 individual corrections and 28 800 instructions for Thesaurus modifications.

4.4 Microfiche Technique

In the course of the transfer of the manual ENDS file of abstracts to microfiches during 1974 445 microfiches were produced under contract for a total of some 170 000 ENDS abstracts. In addition, 500 microfiches for approximately 120 000 documents were produced for the INIS material of 1973 and 1974. The original INIS microfiches cannot be used because the format is unsuitable. Further, all microfiches were provided with clips and the documents were supplied with the corresponding microfiche addresses. The microfiche reading and copying equipment (CARD, image systems) was expanded to a total of seven machines by the acquisition of two units in 1974.

4.5 On-line Operation

A new machine configuration at the Commission's computer centre made a switch from the previously used internal software to STAIRS (IBM) necessary at the beginning of the year. At the same time the ENDS on-line files were expanded to 240 000 NSA abstracts, volumes 22-25. The conversion to STAIRS entailed disadvantages for the carrying out of literature searches to the extent that some of the possibilities offered by the previously used internal software were not offered by STAIRS. For on-line operation not only the ENDS files are available, but also an INIS file, containing 7 000 documents, which were set up in June 1974 on the occasion of an INIS seminar and are used exclusively for test and demonstration purposes.

4.6 Cade Report

In June 1974 Dr. Cade, of Novy Eddison and Partners (UK), was entrusted with the task of carrying out a study on ENDS. The report on the study, which was completed in October 1974, contains an analysis and assessment of ENDS, together with suggestions and recommendations with respect to the Commission's future activities in the field of nuclear documentation in the light of the declining use of ENDS during the past two years and the new tasks of DG XIII in connection with the European network for STID.

As of the series of options listed in the report, the most favoured was the establishment of a limited information network. It is considered to link the Commission's computer centre, operating ENDS and some information systems currently being developed, with certain other information centres in Member States and with one other, similar system.

4.7 Software for ENDS

In September 1974 tenders were requested for the development of software for ENDS, and in December the contract was awarded to SOFTLAB, in the Federal Republic of Germany. It is intended that the software to be developed under this contract should achieve the following aims:

- adjustment of the ENDS data base to the INIS thesaurus structure and terminology;
- preparation of ENDS for processing by any documentation centre (commercially available tapes);
- improvement of the retrieval software including automatic procedures for passing an on-line query formulation to the batch retrieval.

In order to define the project a number of discussions have already been held with SOFTLAB with a view to drawing up a project report for use as the basis for the software development.

4.8 Contracts with individuals

At the beginning of 1974 there were 57 outstanding contracts with individuals for the selection of documents from abstract journals, the coding of documents, the indexing of documents for ENDS and INIS, the preparation of the card file, thesaurus work and the allocation of microfiche addresses. Because of the cessation of input and the consequent reduction in the above-mentioned activities, the number of such contracts had been reduced to 16 by the end of 1974.

5. Costs for ENDS

The costs involved in the operation and the development of the system are set out in Annex II.

Considerable progress was achieved in 1974. After some hesitation the conditions were created under which ENDS could be adapted to the requirements of modern information services and to the possibilities open to the Commission. In particular, the ENDS Advisory Committee took a series of decisions supporting the efforts of the Commission.

In the light of the points listed above, the prospects for 1975 are as follows:

- (4.1) Input of documents: The input of documents to ENDS has ceased; the nuclear file will be updated with INIS material. Input to INIS will be continued in cooperation with the CEA at Saclay.
- (4.2) Documentation services: The processing of SDI profiles will be continued in 1975 by the Danish Atomic Energy Commission; the processing contract has been extended to the end of 1975.

Discussions are on the way to pass on to a national nuclear documentation centre the whole operation of ENDS, i.e. batch processing of the complete file, on-line retrieval of the INIS file, the handling of retrospective searches and the elaboration of SDI profiles. With this in view contacts have already been taken up with the Belgian authorities and with the documentation centre of the Mol Nuclear Energy Centre on the basis of the Belgian proposal (see Item 2). The necessary budget appropriation for this measure must be arranged, and the appropriate contracts drawn up. The activities carried out under these contracts will be supervised by the Commission. As a result of these measures the workload of part of the Commission staff and the Commission's computer centre would be lightened. The overall operation can only be contracted out, however, once the software development described under 4.7 has been successfully concluded.

- (4.3) Thesaurus activities: These activities can be completed by approximately mid-1975. The further routine work on the thesaurus would be carried out by the Belgian centre at Mol on conclusion of the above-mentioned contract.
- (4.4) Microfiches: The production of microfiches for ENDS will be completed when the last 525 microfiches for 130 000 documents are supplied in about mid-May 1975. The preparation of microfiche for INIS material will be continued until INIS abstracts are available in machine-readable form.

- (4.5) On-line operation: The current on-line operation with NSA documents will be discontinued if the Belgian centre assumes responsibility for the operation of ENDS and provides an INIS on-line service. For test and control purposes the Commission should then have on-line access via a terminal to this INIS file. The planned on-line experiment should also be linked up to the INIS on-line service made available by the Belgian centre under contract. It should be possible to begin this experiment in May 1975.
- (4.6) Cade report: This report should serve as a basis for further decisions, e.g. the introduction of charges for the Commission's nuclear documentation services in accordance with EFAG recommendations.
- (4.7) Software for ENDS: The draft report is to be submitted by March 1975. Once the report has been adopted by the Commission a start will be made on the actual programming work; of that work the programmes for ensuring ENDS-INIS compatibility and for the production of commercially available ENDS magnetic tapes are to be completed by approximately mid-1975. In parallel the complex problems relating to retrieval software will be dealt with. It may prove necessary to conclude a follow-up contract with a software company.
- (4.8) Contracts with individuals: The contracts existing at the end of 1974 will be provisionally extended for thesaurus work, the allocation of microfiche addresses and the preparation of the Commission's contribution to INIS. In view of the relatively small number of documents which the Commission contributes to INIS, consideration should be given to contracting out the preparation of the INIS worksheets to the CEA, Saclay. Once that were done and the thesaurus activities were discontinued, the remaining contracts could be cancelled.

G. Steven
ENDS - Secretariat

ENDS - STATISTICS FOR 1974

INPUT

		INPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Monthly Average	Total 1974
Selection and coding of documents	Scanning	78.373	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		78.373
	Selection	11.804	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		11.804
	Yield (%)	15,1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		15,1
	Coding	26.139	12.708	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		38.847
Duplication check	Number of docs. processed	6.847	8.977	11.298	4.900	-	-	6.580	-	-	-	-	-	-		38.602
	Doubles	4.036	4.570	5.766	3.393	-	-	1.505	-	-	-	-	-	-		19.270
	New non-NSA documents	2.811	4.407	5.532	1.507	-	-	5.048	-	-	-	-	-	-		19.332
	Total number of docs. in store	← 1.475.682 (")														
Card file	New cards	11.485	4.455	3.283	-	1.081	5.213	4.393	5.890	1.231	269	-	-	3.108		37.300
	Sorted cards	4.386	5.400	5.079	3.346	4.742	2.816	5.232	1.552	3.187	3.719	5.485	2.989	3.994		47.933

(") Because of the difficulties mentioned under 4.3 the total available store of documents for retrieval could not be expanded.

ENDS - STATISTICS FOR 1974

OUTPUT

OUTPUT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Monthly Average	Total 1974
	Retrospective searches													
Requests received	51	28	38	25	30	51	32	23	34	31	20	43	34	406
Requests processed	29	24	29	18	35	40	35	25	31	33	48	24	31	371
Abstracts checked	10.366	975	1.619	934	1.246	2.565	1.298	783	1.308	2.017	1.773	542	2.119	25.426
Abstracts dispatched	492	542	604	485	837	1.581	708	484	721	1.222	1.110	793	798	9.579
SDI														
New profiles	32	16	16	12	3	14	-	14	20	30	14	11	15	182
Cancelled profiles	5	5	13	22	10	21	5	14	16	17	4	7	11,5	139 ^(*)
Total number of profiles	766	777	780	770	763	756	751	751	755	768	778	782	-	782
Abstracts dispatched	-	-	14.340	-	-	6.007	9.272	-	-	4.954	10.133	8.126	4.403	52.832

(*) 327 SDI profiles were transferred to national documentation centres; these profiles were only removed from ENDS at the request of clients.

ENDS - Annual Report for 1974

1. The selection of documents from abstract journals ceased at the end of January.
2. Duplication check was finished in July.
3. Contribution to INIS: 306 documents.
4. 14 257 abstracts of new documents were incorporated in the system.
5. 44 300 individual corrections were made and 28 800 thesaurus modification lines were prepared.
6. 406 literature requests were received, of which 371 were dealt with.
7. The number of abstracts checked was 25 426, of which 9 579 were forwarded to clients; this corresponds to an average of 26 bibliographical references per request.
8. 344 comments relating to retrospective searches were processed; of these, 177 led to SDI profiles, while in 56 cases the original request was altered; 34 users requested further references.
9. 182 new SDI profiles were added; 139 profiles were cancelled. By the end of 1974 a total of 782 SDI profiles were being processed.
10. By March a further 4 SDI runs with ENDS documents had been carried out, and 45 813 copies of abstracts had been distributed to clients. For the SDI results from the INIS file (Danish Atomic Energy Commission) 7 019 copies of abstracts were sent to users.

EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION FOR
ENDS IN 1974

1. Operations

Microfiche preparation		u.a.	21.800
Microfiche equipment			31.300
Thesaurus modifications and corrections			9.300
Photocopies	estimation		10.000
Rent for terminal			9.000
Input to INIS			2.500
INIS worksheets			1.000
Punching			2.000
SDI processing (contract with DAEC)			15.000
Software development (contract with SOFTLAB)			65.000
Contracts with individuals			20.000

2. Computer

Use of computer for input	estimated		10.000
Use of computer for output	"		60.000

3. Other costs

Meetings of the ENDS-Advisory Committee			5.600
Cade Report			11.800

u.a. 274.300

4. Personnel

3,5 A-grade	
3 B-grade	
2,5 C-grade	
3 local agents	

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