

**EUR 5177 dk,d,e,f,i,n**

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION  
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CIDST)  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
FOR 1972 AND 1973

1974

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

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July 1974

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Commission of the European Communities  
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Luxembourg, July 1974 - 22 Pages - B.Fr. 40.—

The CIDST was set up by a Resolution of the Council of Ministers dated 24 June 1971 in order to encourage progress in scientific and technical information and documentation and gradually to establish a European documentation and information network by the proper coordination of Member States policies and activities in this field.

This is the first annual report of the CIDST reviewing its activities during 1972 and 1973.

The report is in five sections. Section 1 describes the beginnings of the CIDST; section 2 deals briefly with general matters. Sections 3 and 4 cover the actual work of the CIDST, section 3 being devoted to the activities of the Committee itself and section 4 to those of its working groups. Section 5 sets down the report's conclusions and prospects for the future.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The CIDST was set up by a Resolution of the Council of Ministers dated 24 June 1971 in order to encourage progress in scientific and technical information and documentation and gradually to establish a European documentation and information network by the proper coordination of Member States policies and activities in this field.

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

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The Chairman

One of the principal assets of Europe lies in the traditionally high intellectual ability and inventiveness of its peoples, reflected in a continuing high level of investment in the future through research. However, the proper exploitation of this considerable asset in technological innovation requires that the ever increasing volume of scientific and technical information available be correctly, promptly and economically channelled through appropriate information transfer systems to those in our Community who need it.

For more than two years, the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) has devoted its energies to carrying out these tasks. The Committee was set up by the Council of Ministers in its Resolution of 24 June 1971. It is composed of representatives from the Member States and the Commission.

The report presented here reviews the activities of the CIDST during 1972 and 1973. In order to ensure the widest possible distribution, this report, which it is planned to publish each year, appears in the "EUR" series of scientific and technical reports published by the Commission of the European Communities.

The Committee's Secretariat is situated in Luxembourg, 29 rue Aldringen, c/o Commission of the European Communities. It is at the service of all those who wish to obtain further copies of this document or any further information about the Committee and its work.

Luxembourg, 30 April 1974

Cyril G. GILES

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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION  
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
FOR 1972 and 1973

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1. Foreword.

1.1. The Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) of the European Communities was set up by the Council of Ministers in its resolution of 24 June 1971 (1) on the need to coordinate the activities of the Member States in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation (IDST).

The main task laid down by the Council for the CIDST was to assist the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) and the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (PREST) (2) of the Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee in performing the duties specified in the resolution.

1.2. The CIDST began its operation in the spring of 1972. This first report covers the first two years (March 1972 to March 1974) of its activities.

From the outset, the CIDST was able to build on the valuable work of the special Group (3) which was set up in order to look closely at the situation in IDST and to submit proposals for the creation of information systems. It was in fact on the basis of recommendations made by this special Group that the Council, recognizing the key role of information and documentation in many other fields besides research, framed the resolution of 24 June 1971.

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(1) O.J. C 122 of 10 December 1971 (see Appendix I)

(2) By resolution of the Council of 14 January 1974 (O.J. C 7 of 29 January 1974) a Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) was set up and took over these duties of the former PREST group.

(3) Set up following the Council's basic resolution of 31 October 1967, recognizing the need for an overall European scientific and technical research policy.



1.3. Section 2 of this report deals briefly with general matters. Sections 3 and 4 cover the actual work of the CIDST, section 3 being devoted to the activities of the Committee itself and section 4 to those of its working groups. Section 5 lays down guidelines for the future.

## 2. General

2.1. The terms of reference of the CIDST involve assisting the Commission and the CREST in carrying out co-ordination and management functions in the field of information and documentation on science and technology (IDST), namely :

- promoting the creation and rational development of scientific and technical information and documentation systems, with the aim of establishing permanent links between them and thus building up a European network;
- establishing rules and working methods to ensure cohesion of the network;
- promoting specialist training and user education;
- promoting technological progress in information science.

2.2. The CIDST has held 10 meetings so far. At the 7th meeting on 11/12 September 1973, Mr. C. GILES was elected Chairman for the remainder of the term of office of the first Chairman, Mr. DE MEULDER, who had resigned as a member. The Secretariat of the Committee is provided by the services of the Commission (Mr. E. GURA).

2.3. Besides representatives from the original six Member States of the Community and those from the Commission, representatives of the United Kingdom took part in the work of the Committee from the 3rd meeting onwards (12/13 July 1972), Ireland from the 4th meeting (19 October 1972), and Denmark from the 6th meeting onwards (10/11 April 1973).

3. Committee activities.

3.1. The Committee decided to suggest certain priorities, so that initial connections inside the planned information network could be made as quickly as possible, by relying upon systems already existing and available national centres and data banks.

3.2. The Member States have begun, through the CIDST, to exchange views and information regularly on negotiations within international organisations, for example Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and to harmonize their attitudes towards problems or initiatives arising in the area of scientific and technical information and documentation.

3.3. In the field of aviation and space information and documentation, the Committee has discussed the possibilities of establishing contact with the ELDO (European Space Vehicle Launcher Development Organisation) and ESRO (European Space Research Organisation) organisations, and representatives of ESRO have reported on their RECON documentation system and its potential.

3.4. A central subject of the Committee's work in the first year of its existence was the development, not yet fully implemented, of a procedure for harmonizing national policies in the IDST field, providing for the exchange of information by Member States on their national plans and projects, especially with regard to structural problems, financial, legal and administrative questions, the setting of priorities, research and development, training problems and questions of standardization.

3.5. In addition, the Committee set as its most urgent target the settlement of basic questions relating to the setting up of a European network and programming the organisational and technical measures involved. The CIDST had a full report on these network problems prepared by an ad hoc group meeting on 19/20 February 1973.

3.6. In the second year of operation, the Committee discussed the information policy implications of the DAHRENDORF plan for scientific and technical policy and the resultant action programme proposed by the Commission of the European Communities (4). These cover information and documentation for nuclear energy, metallurgy and agriculture, in which information systems already exist or are in the process of being set up, and for environmental protection, patents, education and biomedicine, in which planning work has started.

3.7. The Committee assisted the Commission with the preparation of budgetary proposals aimed at obtaining the necessary means for setting up a European information network as envisaged by the Council's resolution of 1971. It expressed its opinion on the budgetary outline for 1975-77 and conveyed it to the Commission and CREST.

#### 4. Activities of the working groups and systems

##### 4.1. General.

The Committee set up a number of working groups with general (horizontal) or sectoral (vertical) areas of responsibility. The following horizontal groups have been created to date (dates on which work started are shown in brackets):

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| a) Technical Aspects of Information<br>(Information Technology) | (10 December 1973)  |
| b) Pricing Policy   | (15 September 1971) |
| bb) Economic and Financial Aspects<br>of Information Systems    | (21 January 1974)   |
| c) Training of Specialists for IDST                             | (20 February 1974)  |

The following sectoral groups have the task of studying the creation of information and documentation systems in certain fields (dates on which work started are shown in brackets):

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| d) Agricultural Documentation              | (20 May 1969)      |
| e) Medicine                                | (20 May 1969)      |
| ee) Biomedical Information                 | (25 January 1974)  |
| f) Information on Environmental Protection | (10 January 1974)  |
| g) Patent documentation (questionnaire)    | (12 May 1969)      |
| gg) (Preparing wider terms of reference)   | (17 December 1973) |

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(4) Supplement 14/73 to the Bulletin of the European Communities; see also O.J. C 7 of 29 January 1974 (Resolution on the initial outline programme of the European Communities in the field of science and technology).

There are also two independent systems which are already operating:

- h) Nuclear Documentation (ENDS-European Nuclear Documentation System)
- i) Metallurgical Documentation (SDIM-System for Documentation and Information on Metallurgy).

Development of the first of these systems was started by the Commission in 1961; the second began in 1972 on the basis of a provisional technical agreement between the national authorities of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities, following a Resolution of the Council of Ministers made on 24 June 1971.

#### 4.2. Formation of Working Groups and Progress.

##### 4.2.1. TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF INFORMATION.

A basic problem in the organisation of a European information and documentation network is that scientific and technical information is published in many languages. This is one of the most difficult problems for users as well as for the information centres.

Moreover, an important prerequisite for work in this field is, of course, the establishment of information-handling centres with appropriate electronic equipment so as to afford access under the same conditions to users in all member countries. The creation of a network of such centres would require a sufficient measure of compatibility in their methods of handling and storing data as well as provision for transmitting information between centres and from centres to users.

It is precisely to attend to these important aspects of a European network that the CIDST set up a group on "Technical Aspects of Information" to review the various problems involved, work out solutions and make recommendations to the Committee.

On 11 September 1973, the terms of reference of the Technical Aspects of Information working group were approved by the PREST group, enabling it to begin its studies (10 December 1973) on setting up a European documentation and information network.

The Group began its activities by drawing up a working programme, which gave particular attention to technical, linguistic, and organisational problems. An inventory of available information resources is essential in planning a network and in selecting information systems and data bases which might be incorporated in it. The Group decided to study the planning of a communication network, to draw up a specification of requirements for cooperative data base production, and to pursue the identification of user needs in connection with on-line information retrieval as well as any consequent promotion of on-line systems.

#### 4.2.2. PRICING POLICY AND ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS.

In September 1971, a Pricing Policy working group was created with terms of reference confined to examining the financing of computer-based or other technically advanced information systems.

Basing its work on a parallel OECD study, the group:

- laid down the aims and field of application for a uniform policy on charging for information services;
- worked out rules for establishing the operating costs of IDST centres, which were presented in the form of a cost schedule and explanatory note;
- worked out proposals for a uniform scale of charges;
- recorded the results of their work in a report which was presented to the Committee at its meeting of 10/11 April 1973.

In examining this report, the Committee felt that the setting up of a European information and documentation network would call for considerable effort and expenditure. In view of the nature of the activity and its objectives, it would clearly be reasonable that the Community itself should give some financial support to the creation of the network.

By working cooperatively, the costs involved are likely to be considerably lower than if each Member State had to create its own world-wide scientific and technical information service.

The Committee, therefore, was of the opinion that one of the urgent questions to be considered was that of financing the services to be provided by the European network.

Thus, the scope of the Pricing Policy group was enlarged in the terms of reference of the Economic and Financial Aspects of Information Systems working group set up by the CIDST. This group will investigate all economic and financial aspects of collecting, processing, storing, disseminating, and using information. Its priority task, however, will be to discover the best means of financing the network's services. The Committee itself will coordinate national policies in this field.

- 4.2.3. The Training of IDST Specialists working group started work in February 1974 by drawing up a timetable for its activities covering its first twelve months.
- 4.2.4. Before setting up a working group on Legal Questions relating to Information, the CIDST decided first to collect information on copyright and data protection as a basis for drawing up possible terms of reference for the proposed working group.
- 4.2.5. AGRICULTURE.

In 1972, a draft outline agreement on setting up a European agricultural documentation system was submitted by the Agricultural working group to the Committee. At the request of the Committee, a further paper was elaborated describing in greater detail the tasks, legal basis, structure and organisation of the proposed European Agricultural Documentation and Information System (EURADIS), which would be composed of a number of sub-structures. As much of the work as possible would be entrusted to national specialized documentation centres, which would co-operate under contract in EURADIS.

Within the EURADIS project, the working group and the Commission have already begun to investigate the possibility of closer co-operation in some sub-areas, particularly the following:

4.2.5.1. European Contribution to AGRIS I.

The first sub-structure suggested is the joint European Contribution to AGRIS I (EUR-AGRIS I) world-wide system set up by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). A description of the AGRIS-system is available in the "AGRIS-Study Team Report" (Doc. FAO/DC/AGRIS N° 2) and subsequent documents, to which representatives of the European Communities made authoritative contributions.

4.2.5.2. Survey of World Agricultural Documentation Services.

This survey (5) has been compiled on the basis of a world-wide enquiry into agricultural documentation and information services. It will be used as a basis for a projected referral system.

4.2.5.3. Further projects.

The Agricultural working group started discussions on further EURADIS projects:

- Agricultural Management Information System (AMIS) for agricultural policy, economic aspects of farming and rural sociology.
- Tropical and sub-tropical agriculture (AGRITROP)
- Collection of Agricultural Literature in difficult languages.

4.2.5.4. Permanent inventory of agricultural research projects (AGREP)

A plan, worked out for AGREP by a group of experts within the Agricultural working group, was included in a proposal from the Commission to the Council on the coordination of agricultural research in the countries of the Community. A Council decision is pending. In a pilot programme, started in June 1973, about 9,000 project descriptions are being collected and compiled into an experimental issue of the inventory, including indices of various types.

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(5) published as report EUR 4680/1 e (1973)

#### 4.2.6. MEDICINE

At the request of the CIDST, an ad hoc group was charged with studying the need for setting up a new working group and for extending the latter's activities to certain fields of biomedical information. The terms of reference, approved on 12/13 November 1973, entrust the new working group Biomedical Information with the following studies:

- Multilingual terminology and medical metalanguages;
- Acquisition and processing of biomedical data (data banks, medical records, unpublished biomedical research data).

At its first meeting on 25 January 1974, the working group considered its various tasks with a view to drawing up proposals for coordinating and cooperating in the Community plan.

#### 4.2.7. ENVIRONMENT

4.2.7.1. The recently created working group Information on Environmental Protection was formed on the basis of the environmental protection action programme proposed to the Council by the Commission (6).

At its 7th meeting, held on 12 September 1973, the CIDST requested an ad hoc group to prepare draft terms of reference, which it, CIDST, passed in amended form on 13 November 1973 and submitted to the PREST Group, which approved them on 15 December 1973.

4.2.7.2. In early January 1974, the working group and a group of experts chosen by the Commission to represent customer interests in environmental information met in Luxembourg to consider the following aspects in direct support of the European Community's Programme (taking into consideration the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)):

- the information requirements for planning and managing the environment,

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(6) Council Declaration of 22 November 1973; see O.J. C 112 of 20 December 1973



particularly the exchanges of non documentary information concerning monitoring and other operational activities;

- European permanent inventory of documentation sources, integrated into appropriate United Nations and other international systems;
- the need for information systems on conference papers, legislation and other subjects where gaps exist in the national or international networks;
- technical and organisational differences between information sources and systems, and means of achieving a coordinated European environmental information policy.

4.2.7.3. The following studies were chosen to be performed under contract:

- feasibility of a European Environment Management Information System;
- feasibility of a modest European analysis service for pollution control technology;
- production of a questionnaire for compiling a European Inventory of Information Sources (joint participation by the Member States of the European Community in the UNEP international referral system).

4.2.7.4. The experts will investigate, in their own countries, the needs, existing systems, and possibilities of coordination relating to:

- environmental legislation;
- file of conference papers;
- gaps in existing systems or between systems;
- inventories of centres of excellence, research projects and documentation sources.

4.2.8. PATENTS.

4.2.8.1. A survey of the requirements and improvements desired by users of patent literature in the European Community was started in 1971 and completed in 1972. This survey identified areas where existing services were not meeting needs.

4.2.8.2. The CIDST came to the conclusion, on the basis of the survey and a recommendation from the Commission, that an ad hoc group of experts should make a definitive review of the work so far done. This group completed its work in December 1973 and advised that a new CIDST working group be set up, charged with developing plans for improved access to patent information, including interconnection between patent and other documentation and information services.

4.2.8.3. A further meeting of the ad hoc group took place on 15 February 1974, and agreed on the draft terms of reference for a working group "Documentation on patents". The Committee amended and adopted this draft at its 10th meeting on 29 March 1974.

#### 4.3. Existing systems

##### 4.3.1. NUCLEAR DOCUMENTATION

4.3.1.1. The European Nuclear Documentation System (ENDS) was planned in 1960 within the framework of the Treaty establishing a European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM). Input began in 1961, and, in 1967 first retrospective literature searches were carried out. Today, more than 1.5 million documents are stored; about 6,000 retrospective literature searches have been carried out, and 700 SDI profiles are being processed. In the meantime, the thesaurus was being constantly enlarged, the input improved, automatic retrieval extended, and an on-line dialogue system set up.

4.3.1.2. A group named TRANCHE (7) was formed as an advisory body for the functioning of ENDS and to exchange information among Member States. Since, however, ENDS was established under the EURATOM Treaty, and not by a Council resolution, the TRANCHE group was unable, despite the efforts of the CIDST, to become an official sub-group of the CIDST. Nevertheless, the Commission was asked to keep the CIDST informed on the work of TRANCHE.

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(7) The name TRANCHE is an acronym formed from the abbreviation TRA for "travail"(work), N for "nucléaire" (nuclear), and CHE for "chef" (head). It is a working group composed of the heads of the nuclear documentation centres in the Member States (see also Appendix II).

#### 4.3.2. METALLURGY (SDIM)

- 4.3.2.1. The provisional technical agreement setting up the Metallurgy System (SDIM) was signed by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Commission in April 1972, by Belgium in September 1972, by France in October and by Luxembourg in December 1972. The United Kingdom signed in September 1973 and Ireland in February 1974. Denmark, and in the Netherlands, NOBIN have signified their willingness to join, whilst Italy has not yet signed the agreement. The Commission has taken over the responsibility for part of the input intended for the Netherlands in 1973; this is an exceptional measure of an experimental nature.
- 4.3.2.2. The Management Committee of SDIM met four times in 1973. Representatives of those centres which have not yet signed the provisional technical agreement were present at these meetings as observers.

Apart from current technical questions, the Management Committee discussed, in particular, the following points:

- conditions and procedures for the adherence of the new Member States of the Community to the provisional technical agreement; and
- examination of entry applications from countries not members of the European Communities.

#### 4.3.2.3. The present situation in the Member States and the Commission.

By the end of 1972, only the German centres had provided input, i.e. 4,904 analysis forms. Other signatory centres began work during 1973, by the end of which 17,430 analysis forms had been submitted.

The French version of the thesaurus of metallurgical terms was revised at a series of eight meetings during 1972 between representatives of the Commission and the Centre de Documentation du Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). The improvements made have been incorporated in the German and English versions. All three versions have been printed in an improved form. A new version of the thesaurus was distributed in September 1973.

Rules for cataloguing and the design of the analysis form were finalized in 1972 and distributed in all languages. The rules for indexing were revised during 1973.

4.3.2.4. Processing of the input by the Commission.

Processing of the input, namely,

- microfiche recording of the first page of the analysis form, which contains bibliographical details and a summary, and,
  - recording the bibliographical data and descriptors on magnetic tape,
- began in the first half of 1973. On 31 December 1973, the situation was as follows:

Documents on microfiches	14,798
Documents on exchange tapes	8,448

These microfiches and exchange tapes were passed on to the participating centres.

5. Conclusions & Prospects.

All the activities of the Committee are determined by the central task of coordinating the national policies of member governments in the field of scientific and technical information as laid down by the Council's resolution of 24 June 1971.

The Committee has so far considered the sectors either as being of particular importance or interest for the aims of the Community or as being in need of urgent attention, if the rapid progress made in third countries is not to result in a further falling behind in the development of the Member States of the Community. However, as the Committee deals with these sectors and finds appropriate solutions for them, it is clear that its attention will have to be given to further fields so that, as its ultimate goal, all potential users will be able to find ready access to the sources of information of importance to them through the Community network.

In conclusion, four main points become apparent:

- 1) the European Community itself must assume a part of the financial load involved in creating a European network for scientific and technical information;
- 2) the language problem is serious, and therefore one should not hesitate to set aside funds for solving it;
- 3) the network should be made as comprehensive as possible for the benefit of the users; and,
- 4) the centres in the Member States should be brought to an equal level of technical development as quickly as possible in order to guarantee, in the interests of the users, a smooth and efficient exchange of information and documentation.

By its resolution of 14 January 1974, the Council reiterated its willingness to act on the Commission's proposals relating to scientific and technical information. Thus prerequisites were laid down so that proposals on the European Information Network might be considered in due course, and that decisions on the implementation of projects might now be taken by the Council without further delay.

**RESOLUTION**

**of the Council and of the Representatives of the Member States, meeting in the Council  
with a view to coordinating the action of the Member States regarding scientific and technical  
information and documentation (STID)**

**(adopted at the 157th session of the Council held on 24 June 1971)**

THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
MEMBER STATES, MEETING IN THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the report drawn up by the 'Scientific and Technical Research Policy' working party of the Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee, in pursuance of the Resolution adopted on 31 October 1967;

Whereas in order to achieve economic, scientific and technical progress it is important that scientific, technical, economic and social documentation and data should be made available by the most modern methods to all persons needing to use such information, under the most favourable conditions as regards speed and expense;

Whereas it is necessary to encourage efforts aimed at this objective and, to this end, to seek the coordination of action being carried out throughout the Community in such a way as gradually to establish a European documentation and information network;

Whereas the establishment of such a network could only be effectively realized by the proper coordination of Member States' policies in this regard, and whereas therefore the procedure for such coordination should be laid down,

HAVE AGREED:

1. In order to encourage progress in scientific and technical information and documentation and gradually to establish a European documentation and information network, the 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.

The centres in the Member States will be prepared to associate the centres of other European States in the establishment of systems or, where appropriate, to facilitate their eventual access to such systems.

As regards relations and negotiations with third countries in scientific and technical information and documentation, the Member States shall keep one another regularly informed and shall compare their points of view in order to harmonize them as much as possible without prejudice to the provisions of the Treaty.

2. With a view to the implementation of coordinated action by the Member States, the general guidelines and, where necessary, the common positions shall be adopted by the Council or by the Representatives of the Member States meeting in the Council, on a proposal from the Commission or from one or more of the Member States.

Where action or expenditure by the Community or by the Member States as a whole might appear necessary, the Council or the Representatives of the Member States meeting in the Council shall be responsible for adopting the appropriate decisions.

3. The preparation of projects or other measures arising out of the provisions of paragraph 2 above shall be the responsibility of the Commission and of the 'Scientific and Technical Research Policy' working party of the Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee.

In order to assist them in the performance of these tasks and to ensure that the current duties in regard to coordination and management are carried out the Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee will, within the framework of the 'Scientific and Technical Research Policy' working party set up a 'Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation Committee' (STIDC).

This Committee shall be composed of persons responsible for drawing up policy on scientific and technical information and documentation policy in each of the Member States, together with representatives from the Commission. Secretarial assistance will be provided by the Commission.

Where a revision of the structures responsible for the analysis of problems and the comparison of national policies regarding scientific and technological research might alter the powers of the Scientific and Technical

Research Policy group of the Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee, the Council will adopt all necessary measures to ensure the accomplishment of the tasks set out in paragraph 3 of this Resolution.

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1. Activities of the TRANCHE Group.

In 1972 and 1973, TRANCHE held two meetings dealing with the following subjects:

- cooperation between the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC) and EURATOM and its Member States. Under this cooperation, Member States process their nuclear information, index it according to EURATOM rules, later according to International Nuclear Information System (INIS) rules, and send it to the USAEC in exchange for Nuclear Science Abstracts;
- cooperation with the INIS of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);
- exchange of ideas via European Nuclear Energy Agency ((ENEA) now NEA) particularly regarding the setting up of a committee on problems of nuclear information;
- organisation of seminars on indexing and retrieval;
- organisation of an exchange of ideas with the users of ENDS.

2. It was early in 1972 that the Commission suggested that ENDS be decentralized. The TRANCHE group was of the opinion that retrospective searches should continue to be carried out by the Commission. They further thought that on-line operation of terminals was not desirable.

On 25 January 1974, members of the TRANCHE group (1), supported by a number of specialists from the Member States held an ad hoc meeting in Luxembourg to discuss the suggestions made by the Commission on the future of ENDS in the light of the new tasks given by the Commission to the Directorate General, Scientific and Technical Information and Information Management.

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(1) which now is named ENDS Advisory Committee (ENDS.-AC)



3. The participants at that meeting agreed to the following guidelines laid down by the Commission on the future of ENDS:

- the accumulated information store of ENDS should continue to be available;
- it should be drawn upon more intensively by users from the Community countries;
- ENDS should not perform services that could better be performed by national centres, and vice versa; and
- ENDS should not enter into competition with INIS.

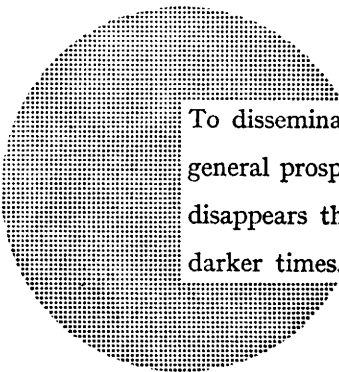
4. In implementing these guidelines, it was agreed by the meeting:

- that ENDS should continue to be operated for retrospective literature searches, but further additions to the data base should be limited to INIS material. The need for further additions will be reviewed after two years;
- that the related SDI profiles, elaborated by the Commission, should be handed over to the national documentation centres;
- that the Commission should work out and submit a document on costs and prices of ENDS information activities;
- that any publicity for the use of nuclear information should be handled at national level; and,
- that the nuclear documentation system operated by the Commission should be adapted so that it can become a component of the European network. It was decided that the Commission should work out a detailed proposal relating to a test networking operation with one or two national centres. The expert from the Netherlands declared himself willing to take part in such a test operation.

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Alfred Nobel

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