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Commission of the European Communities

information management

Fifth report on the activities of the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) of the European Communities

(1981-83)

Report

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FIFTH REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (1)

1981-1983

1. Introduction

1.1 The Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST), set up by decision of the Council of Ministers of 24 June 1971 (2), continued during the period under review to advise the Commission on matters connected with scientific and technical information and documentation with a view to promoting the European information market and the existing Euronet DIANE information network.

1.2 Since 1975 three 3-year Plans of action have been carried out to achieve this aim. This report concerns the work done under the 3rd Plan of Action which was terminated by end of 1983, but the implementation of which is continuing into 1984.

1.3 The report also contains an outline of planned future activities to be carried out under a longer-term action programme. CIDST has to that end recommended a Community programme for the development of the specialized information market in Europe (see Chapter 4).

1.4 At the Committee meeting of March 1981 the Greek delegation attended for the first time as a full member.

The list of members during the period 1981-1983 is attached (Annex I), while Annex II lists the meeting of the Committee during the same period.

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(1) The previous reports were published as Nos EUR 5177, EUR 5597, EUR 6158 and EUR 7658 (in Danish, Dutch, English, French, German and Italian) and are obtainable from the sales offices listed at the end of this report.

(2) OJ C 122 of 10 December 1971.

2. Third Plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation (1981 to 1983)

The 3rd Plan of action was adopted by the Council on 27 July 1981 (3) at the proposal of the Commission and after the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee had delivered their opinions.

The four principal objectives of this plan were:

- to consolidate and enhance Euronet and to extend and improve DIANE services;

- to contribute to the creation of further high-quality information services in Europe to meet a wide variety of needs and to stimulate both public and commercial activities in this field;

- to support users and intermediairies and develop the information market in the Member States;

- to encourage the application of new technologies and processes to information services.

Funds totalling 15 million ECU were made available for implementing the plan and were spread over the four main components as follows:

4.5 million ECU for the extension of Euronet (4.0 million ECU had originally been proposed by CIDST);

7.5 million ECU for the accelerated development of high-quality services in Europe (including 5.5 million ECU for the partial financing of calls for proposals); (8.5 million ECU had originally been proposed by CIDST);

2.0 million ECU for user support and market development (3.0 million ECU had originally been proposed by CIDST);

1.0 million ECU for the application of new technologies and processes.

Cooperation between the Committee and the Commission intensified further and made it possible, after certain initial difficulties had been overcome, to carry out the Plan of action to schedule.

During the period under review CIDST delivered 6 opinions of a general nature on the implementation of the Plan of action and over 80 opinions on individual projects or programmes, over 90 % being unanimous.

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(3) OJ L 220 of 6 August 1981.

2.1 Euronet

2.1.1 The programmes recommended unanimously by CIDST to promote publicity for and use of Euronet DIANE (Direct Information Access Network in Europe) have made a substantial contribution towards increasing its commercial use.

Under the Plans of action it has been possible to extend the Euronet telecommunications network to such an extent that it is now used internationally by about 3 500 organizations.

The DIANE information service now has more than 400 data bases available via 40 hosts. The Euronet hosts formed an association (EHOG - European Host Operators Group) whose meetings were regularly attended by the CIDST Chairman as an observer.

2.1.2 At a discussion between representatives of CIDST and the CMC (European postal administrations' Consortium Management Committee) on 2 July 1981 all outstanding problems were discussed in detail and set out in a document. Particular importance was attached to the connection of further countries to Euronet.

2.1.3 At the November 1981 meeting the Committee unanimously recommended Finland's connection to Euronet, which took place at the end of 1982. Sweden was connected in September 1982 (the relevant cooperation agreements were published (4)). The first exploratory meetings with Norway have been held.

At the June 1982 meeting CIDST also delivered a favourable opinion concerning the connection of Austria. Austria stated that it agreed to the Memorandum of understanding, the principles of non-discrimination and the financial contribution.

The planned conclusion of a cooperation agreement with Spain was postponed until Spain enters the Community, since Spain has meanwhile been able to connect its existing Red Inka network to the public Community network via the French Transpac system.

2.1.4 The technical equipment for the link-up of Greece to Euronet was delivered in January 1983, and the network was made commercialy accessible in November 1983. The financing of this link-up was also approved by CIDST.

2.1.5 The renegotiation of the contracts with the postal administrations, which had expired after five years, was begun in March 1982. The renewed contracts will now be valid until the end of 1985.

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(4) OJ L 385 of 31 December 1981 and L 345 of 6 December 1982.

2.1.6 The Launch Team set up in 1978 to coordinate Euronet activities reported regularly to CIDST on its successful work. At the February 1983 meeting, CIDST recommended that the team's activities under the 3rd Plan of action should be continued until 1984.

The plan for a permanent 'travelling' workshop for potential users put to the Committee in February 1982 and subsequently approved by it was completely successful, and in the United Kingdom alone it attracted approximately 400 new users.

2.1.7 To improve and extend the network and to promote its use and the export of information to non-Community countries, the working group "Economic and Technical Aspects of Euronet" proposed numerous projects (see also Chapter 3), which were recommended by CIDST to the Commission for implementation and financing under the 3rd Plan of action.

2.1.8 The role of Euronet as a catalyst has speeded up the establishment of national networks and the interlinking of these networks, in particular between France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom. These direct links, which have produced a 'bypass' effect have recently slowed down the increase in the use made of Euronet.

2.1.9 CIDST was regularly informed of progress in the establishment, initiated by the Commission, of an interinstitutional Integrated Services Information System (INSIS) as part of the telematics strategy and of the presentation of the new Commission project ESPRIT (European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies).

2.2 Accelerated development of high-quality services in Europe

2.2.1 The increasing awareness of the importance of information and the consequent development of new information technologies is giving rise to a parallel development of new social and economic structures.

2.2.2 In October 1980 CIDST set up an ad hoc group "Calls for Proposals" with the task of elaborating new methods, criteria and procedures for future calls for proposals for new or improved high-quality services. The Council had blocked the funds earmarked for the calls (5.5 million ECU) until the proposals were submitted.

The ad hoc group met on 23 February 1981 and put its findings to CIDST in March and June of that year for discussion. Since no agreement was reached on the document at these meetings a special meeting was arranged for 1 and 2 October 1981 at which proposals to improve the procedure for future calls and the assessment of the projects were drawn up. It was decided that as a general rule the financial contribution should not exceed 200 000 ECU or 25% of the development costs. However, if specific criteria are met, up to 50% of the development costs can be financed. The main criterion should be the content of the proposal and not its financial justification.

2.2.3 An ad hoc advisory group on calls for proposals was set up to advise the Commission on the drafting of calls, application forms and evaluation sheets.

After this ad hoc advisory group had met twice and CIDST had delivered a unanimous opinion, the first call for proposals was issued in July 1982 (5) pursuant to the Council decision on the deblocking of the 5.5 million ECU. The call related to trade and industry, energy and social sciences. It resulted in 170 proposals, 120 of which in the fields of trade and industry, 10 concerning energy and 30 social sciences. The other 10 proposals were concerned with other fields.

Following an initial assessment by the Commission services and subsequently by experts in the various sectors, and an evaluation by CIDST's evaluation group, 25 proposals were selected by CIDST in February 1983 and submitted to the Commission with a recommendation for partial financing. The implementation of the projects is currently under way.

2.2.4 The second call, which was intended to cover agriculture, the environment, biomedicine and health care, was held up because the Commission's discussions on the use of venture capital to make it easier for small and medium-sized firms to participate went on longer than expected. On 4 March 1983 (6) a call relating to agriculture and the environment was issued and prompted 59 proposals: 32 for agriculture, 20 for the environment and 7 for other sectors. The call for biomedicine and health care (including biotechnology) was issued on 6 May 1983 (7): here for the first time provision was made for the participation of financial institutions with venture capital as an additional source of financing. The response to this call was 28 proposals.

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(5) OJ C 160 of 7 July 1982.

(6) OJ C 60 of 4 March 1982.

(7) OJ C 121 of 6 May 1983.

Again, the projects were initially assessed by the Commission services and subsequently by experts in the relevant fields as well as by CIDST's evaluation group. At the CIDST meeting in November 1983 altogether 20 proposals were recommended for implementation and part-financing by the Commission from the funds allocated under the 3rd Plan of action. Their implementation will be operated in 1984.

2.2.5 In addition to its activities in connection with the calls for proposals CIDST also recommended a number of projects for complete financing from funds under the 3rd Plan of action. The projects were prepared in detail by the sectoral working groups, whose activities will be discussed in Chapter 3.

2.3 User support and market developments

2.3.1 One of the primary objectives of the 3rd Plan of action was to make existing knowledge and experience in the field of information available and accessible. Emphasis was placed on promoting and improving access by users, raising the technical quality of the information available and providing better information and instruction for information specialists and users.

2.3.2 At its October 1982 meeting CIDST approved a strategy proposal submitted to it by ETAG concerning user support, a subject which will form the basis of its future proposals for actions.

2.3.3 Particular problems arise because of the existence, for example, of national indexes of data banks which are unknown to potential users in other countries. The main concern here is to avoid duplication and to ensure that information is regularly updated. One of the aims of the Commission projects in this area is to fill any gaps and reduce the differences in the quality of the information available from one Community country to another.

2.3.4 The problems of information users were discussed by a User Forum brought together by the Commission. The Chairmen of CIDST and ETAG regularly attended its meetings as observers.

2.3.5 Various projects were also initiated at national level, priority being given to the interests of users.

2.3.6 One of the actions in hand is the programme for electronic publishing and document delivery (DOCDEL), on which a special task force has drawn up a study programme and proposals for experiments.

The effects of a change to electronic publishing are difficult to predict. The only certainty is that the main areas of activity of authors, publishers, librarians and information suppliers etc. will change. CIDST saw its task in planning the changeover with the utmost care to ensure that it is carried out as smoothly as possible.

At its June 1982 meeting, after discussions extending over more than one year, CIDST arrived at a more precise definition of priority measures in connection with the programme of modern document supply and electronic publication. The initial discussion of the principles and aims of this programme had taken place in May 1982 at an informal meeting held in Murnau, Bavaria.

At the October 1982 meeting it was unanimously decided to draft a call for proposals in this field on the basis of the results of the discussion and to set up a "Call advice group" for implementing the calls.

This call was published on 5 November 1982 (8).

CIDST decided in February 1983 to disband the DOCDEL task force and transfer its functions to the "Call advice group".

Out of the 27 proposals submitted in May 1983 in response to the call from November 1982, this advisory group selected 10 top-priority projects and grouped them together. The Commission's financial contribution (on average 25%) amounts to 3.6 million ECU. On the proposal of its Economic and Technical Aspects Group (ETAG), CIDST recommended at the November 1983 meeting that the Commission should carry out this package of projects, where possible in two phases, and give priority to its financing, with about 2/3 out of funds of the 3rd Action Plan and the remainder out of the funds of the proposed programme for the development of the specialized information market.

2.3.7 In the field of market development, first contacts were established by the Commission at the end of 1982, with the help of the CIDST delegations to explain the importance of a European information market policy to the relevant authorities and interested parties in the Member States. The conclusions reached are to be forwarded to the Council by the Commission in the form of a communication.

At the special CIDST meeting of 7 December 1982 on the objectives of the European information market policy it was felt necessary to draw up first a longer term programme for the period beyond the 3rd Plan of action. However, there must be no breaks in projects which were begun under this Plan and which must be continued and concluded after its completion. Details of this programme are given in Chapter 4.

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(8) OJ C 288 of 5.11.1982.

2.3.8 The various aspects of the policy on multilingualism were further pursued during the 3rd Plan of action. The main objective is to overcome language barriers, which are a major obstacle to the use of information systems. The tools used include multilingual theasuri and machine translation systems.

Parallel to the improvement of Systran, the Commission has proposed a five-year plan to develop a machine translation system of the latest design for the Community languages (Eurotra project). The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have expressed favourable opinions on the implementation of the project. The Council decision was taken on 4 November 1982 (9).

2.3.9 An advisory committee has been set up to supervise the project in conjunction with CIDST and the Commission's committee of experts (CETIL) in the multilingual field. The Eurotra ACPM met for the first time on 7 April 1983. Mr. Appleyard, Director-General of DG XIII, was elected Chairman for one year. Messrs. Renaud and Rothwell are Committee members and ensure the liaison with CIDST.

2.4 New technologies and methods

In the 3rd Plan of action it was not intended to develop new technologies but to promote their use in the Community information market.

2.4.1 An example of this is the promotion, now under way, of videotex for agricultural information. Pilot experiments are now being prepared in Italy, Ireland and Greece. The use of videotex for the environment, energy, biomedicine and health care is currently being examined.

2.4.2 The Commission, together with ESA, EUTELSAT and the 'Permanent Nucleus of CSTD/GTD of CEPT' (the centre set up by the European postal administrations) has developed the Apollo plan for electronic document supply via satellite, using the European communications satellite. The 22 postal administrations involved in EUTELSAT have agreed to the Apollo plan and have asked the Commission to submit concrete proposals for suitable experimental work. CIDST has been kept regularly informed of progress in this field.

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(9) OJ L 317 of 13.11.1982.

2.4.3 To supplement the above projects, which include electronic document delivery and electronic publishing, and to prepare new activities, CIDST has recommended the implementation of two workshops, one on new procedures for information input and output (INOUT) and the other on artificial intelligence for access to information (ARTINT).

2.5 Committee organization

2.5.1 The three-year term of office had elapsed, so the election of the new Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of CIDST was on the agenda of the meeting of 11 March 1981. From the renewed membership, Mr. Renaud (NL) was elected Chairman of CIDST, while Messrs. Cremer (D), Gray (UK) and Clemente Di San Luca (I) were elected Vice-Chairmen. In November 1981 Mr. Dahl (DK) was appointed Vice-Chairman to succeed Mr. Cremer.

At the February 1983 meeting the same Bureau members were confirmed in office for the period 13 March 1983 to 12 March 1984 to ensure that the 3rd Plan of action was concluded under an experienced team.

2.5.2 At the November 1981 meeting the chairmen of the permanent working groups were appointed for the period up to 12 March 1984:

ETAG - Economic and Technical Aspects Group:
Mr. Leamy (UK);

MULTI - Multilingual Aspects Group:
Mr. Moench (D);

AWG - Working Group "Information on agriculture":
Mr. D'Ambrosio (I);

BWG - Working Group "Information on biomedicine and health çare":
Mr. Beckers (B)

ENIG - Working Group "Information on the environment":
Mr. Curran (IRL)

The activities of these groups will be discussed in detail in Chapter 3.

2.5.3 At the June 1982 meeting the mandate of the task force 'Information on Biotechnology', set up in July 1981 at the instigation of CREST (10), was approved. As an initial step, the task force was assigned to the BWG.

(10) Scientific and technical research committee.

2.5.4 Already in March 1981 CREST had suggested that a working group on energy information should be set up.

At the meeting in June/July 1981 CIDST agreed to this proposal and to the establishment of a preparatory task force on energy information with a fairly limited mandate. Its first meeting was held on 14 March 1983. At the June 1983 meeting the mandate was approved and the Task Force became a permanent working group "Information on Energy".

2.6 Exchange of information on the latest developments in the Member States

In line with earlier practice, CIDST received regular reports on national developments.

2.7 International and interinstitutional cooperation

2.7.1 In Gentofte (DK) on 28 April 1982 CIDST's Bureau once again met representatives of Nordinfo (Nordic Council for Scientific Information and Research Libraries). Contacts had first been established in January 1981.

At this informal exchange of views the CIDST and Commission representatives informed the Nordinfo representatives on the implementation of the 3rd Plan of action in the field of information and documentation.

Cooperation on the positions to be taken in international organizations was suggested.

2.7.2 CIDST was informed about the following international activities:

- preparation of a further medium-term action plan (1984-1989) by the Intergovernmental Council under UNESCO/GIP (General Information Programme);

- OECD: establishment and mandate of the ICCP (Information, Computer and Communications Policy) Committee.

It is intended to align the positions of the Community countries to a considerable extent so that the Community can speak with one voice in both organizations.

- the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Legal Informatics has set up an Information Law Group, which also deals with matters of copyright;

- the Third International Congress on Legal Informatics held on 13 May 1983 in Rome.

2.7.3. The Committee was regularly informed of the results of the meetings of the Council's Legal Informatics Group, attended by one of the CIDST officers and the secretary, who reported on the implementation of the Action plans and of the projects connected with legal information.

3. Working Group Activities

The permanent working groups set up by CIDST continued their work on hand or planned under the 1st and 2nd Plans of action during the reference period. Details on their work are described in this chapter.

The group's work was strongly hindered in 1983 by the blockage of credits for meetings, asked for by the European Parliament. Therefore many meetings had to be cancelled during the first half of the year, the result of which was a considerable delay in presenting several projects to CIDST for recommendation.

3.1 Economic and technical aspects of Euronet (ETAG)

During 1981-83, the period of the 3rd Action Plan, ETAG was chaired by Mr. LEAMY (UK), Mr. BALLARIN (F) was elected vice-chairman. The group met on eight occasions. Three task forces aided the work of ETAG during the period:

- Marketing Task Force chaired initially by Mrs. MORIN (F)

- and subsequently by Mr. GLENISTER (UK)

- Task Force on Document Delivery (DOCDEL) chaired by Mr. LEAMY (UK)

- Task Force "Videotex in Agriculture" chaired by Mr. HOUSEMAN (UK).

3.1.1 It is now four years since the official inauguration of Euronet DIANE. The period 1981-83 has therefore seen a shift in emphasis from the initial, mainly technical aspects of Euronet development, to the extension of the network and the improvement of the use of DIANE databases and data banks. The scope of ETAG's work has since broadened to include also information services other than DIANE.

This shift in emphasis took place within a framework of policy papers debated by ETAG and drawn from the growing understanding of the operation of Euronet DIANE. The main policy papers were directed to the

- launching of a new STI concept
- proposed Promotional Strategy for Euronet DIANE 1982-83
- future of DIANE
- proposed Strategy for User Guidance Services
- Community Strategy for Electronic Publishing and Document Delivery
- proposed Policy on Export of DIANE Services
- proposed Marketing Strategy 1983-85.
  CIDST fully supported these strategies and concepts.

3.1.2 Technical projects. By end of 1981, most of the projects on developing prototypes of connection adaptors, interface machines, an RPP printing station, and conversion software were completed (X25 DEVICES 1-4). The upgrading of Euronet continued, with the provision of new standards (UPGRADE 5), and the implementation of links with Sweden, Greece and Finland (UPGRADE 6-8). A project (NATNET I) was carried out to assess the impact of national networks and their interconnection on Euronet DIANE. Work also continued on the implementation of the Common Command Language (COMMAND 6). A training package and a training system for CCL will be developed (CCL-TRAIN A and B).
All these projects were also recommended by CIDST.

3.1.3 Promotion, marketing and export. The main thrust of the policy papers recommended by ETAG was that

- the strategy should be based on the development of a market pull, rather than the promotion of supply;
- promotional and marketing ventures aimed at well-defined potential user groups, and addressing their particular needs are most effective;
- the focus should be on DIANE , not Euronet.

Thus, while the Euronet DIANE Newsletter (NEWS) and the general promotional project (PROMOTE) continued (the Newsletter at a reduced level), other projects were more specific. The project of information use and education (INDUSER), recommended in September 1983, and the Travelling Workshop activity organised by the LAUNCH TEAM, will be carried out on a sectoral basis. The particular needs of potential Greek users will be assessed so as to ensure the optimal implementation of DIANE in Greece and to provide recommendations on further projects which might be pursued there (GREEK 1).

The export of DIANE services has been explored and promoted by the BRIDGE projects. Following the initial market feasibility study (BRIDGE 1), twenty North American brokers were familiarised with DIANE services (BRIDGE 2). Now a direct marketing venture, to some 200 major North American users, with one central DIANE marketing unit has been recommended by ETAG (BRIDGE 3). ETAG recommended in September 1983 market research studies of the Middle Eastern and Far Eastern markets (EXPORT 1, 2). These projects received also support from CIDST.

3.1.4 User Support. In the new strategy of the development of market pull, user support has become more important (see also point 2.3.2). The activities of the Launch Team (LAUNCH, LAUNCH ext.), their help desk and the User Forum have continued. The future role of the Launch Team now under discussion in ETAG and CIDST, may put more emphasis on user support.

Two arms of a user support strategy have been identified. One is to improve the knowledge of users and potential users on how to locate the information they require (e.g. DIANE GUIDE, ENQ, DIRECTORIES). The second is to make easier the interface between the user and the means of getting the information. This encompasses projects on the Common Command Language and a concentrator for DIANE (DIANE CONC). In the CORECOL project, recently recommended, the feasibility of a common revenue collection system will be assessed.

3.1.5 The application of new technologies to information services. Much of the work on this aim of the 3rd Action Plan has concentrated on electronic publishing and document delivery. A number of studies, seminars and workshops were held, to explore the possibilities. An Action Plan was drawn up by the DOCDEL Task Force. ETAG recommended, in September 1983, a package of 10 experiments on electronic document delivery and electronic publishing, to be implemented with high priority (see also point 2.3.6). A second review of electronic publishing trends in Europe, the USA and Japan has been recommended (DOCDEL TRENDS II).

Other work on new information technologies (see also point 2.4.1) concentrated on the application of videotex in an agricultural information service. Two pilot trials have now been designed (VIDEO GREENTREE, VIDEO IMPLEMENT). The feasibility of a videotex terminal having access to an on-line host was demonstrated (TRAF 2).

The final report of a strategic analysis of the likely development of new information technologies (STRATVIEW) has been completed and is under consideration by ETAG.

Seminars on artificial intelligence (ARTINT) and input-output technologies (IN OUT) have also been recommended (see also point 2.4.3).

3.1.6 To sum up, ETAG continued, in the period of the 3rd Action Plan to cover a large number of activities. Over 40 projects were examined and opinions on them were forwarded to CIDST and the Commission. The total budget of these projects on which opinions were given was some 4.5 MECU.

Increasing attention has been paid to policy matters, both as input to CIDST discussions and to the exploration of future avenues of work. It seems likely that this trend will continue and that, although Euronet DIANE activities will remain at a high level, the document delivery programme and other work can be expected to represent an increasing amount of ETAG's work.

3.2 Multilingual aspects of STID (MULTI)

During the reference period this group held 8 meetings. Financial stringencies caused the cancellation of the meeting planned for April 1983 and the same factor led to the grouping together, from January 1982 onwards, of the MULTI group's meetings with those of CETIL, committee of experts of the Commission for the improvement of the transfer of information between European languages.

In January 1982 Mr. Hennico (B) resigned the chairmanship of the Group on age grounds, Mr. Mönch (FRG) being nominated in his place. Messrs. Engel (DK) and Zampolli (I) were elected vice-chairmen.

In line with the programme of work laid down in January 1981, the following projects were carried out or set in motion:

3.2.1 Multilingual thesauri

3.2.1.1 The five-language agricultural thesaurus AGROVOC was concluded, examined by a group of national experts and published in 1982. The intention is to use it from 1984 onwards in the AGRIS data bank, but to date the FAO has refused to make use of the German and Italian versions, as these two are not official FAO languages. The approaches of FAO by the Commission and the relevant German and Italian bodies have so far not led to a solution.

3.2.1.2 Together with the Council of Europe, the EUDISED thesaurus was completely revised and its number of languages increased to eight: German, French, English, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Danish and Greek. Terminology graphics and multilingual indexes were added, and the publication date has been set for early 1984.

3.2.1.3 A preliminary study demonstrated the need for a standardised nomenclature for Community affairs. A start was made on producing the EUROVOC thesaurus in all Community languages. This was a joint project with the European Parliament, the Office for Official Publications, and the Commission's central library and Terminology service. Publication data has been set for mid 1984.

3.2.1.4 The development of sectoral thesauri was less successful. In such cases the initiative is taken by national bodies, the Commission merely providing financial assistance.

Publication of the POLYMER thesaurus, started in 1979, has still not been concluded by the end of 1983, owing to differences of opinion between the bodies involved, on the structure of the thesaurus.

After lengthy negotiations the creation of the HANDIVOC thesaurus on "technical aids for aged and handicapped persons" was approved and finally started at the end of 1983.

A projected thesaurus on building and town planning was approved in 1983, but had to be postponed owing to disagreements between the national bodies.

Given the regularity of these difficulties whenever subject-specific thesauri were to be set up by co-operating national bodies, MULTI decided to give priority in the future to the production of macrothesauri and to apply far stricter selection criteria to the creation of sectoral thesauri.

3.2.1.5 An appropriate infrastructure based on the ASTUTE software is in place for the maintenance and updating of the existing thesauri.

National users have been urged to make appropriate use of the thesauri, but difficulties continue to occur, in part through staff changes at such user bodies.

The ASTUTE software has been updated, so that the number of languages which can be covered is no longer limited, but conversion to on-line operation has been postponed.

3.2.1.6 The collection of data intended for a thesaurus data bank was concluded. The thesaurus inventory will be published at the beginning of 1984, and the data bank should be available on Euronet DIANE by mid 1984.

3.2.2 Machine translation

A market study on the extent and future development of conventional and computerised translation was published in both French and English, the latter version being produced with the help of SYSTRAN.

A technical and an economic study showed that while the use of SYSTRAN on EURONET is technically feasible, it would be economically premature, such an operation not yet being regarded as profitable by the majority of host organisations.

The SYSTRAN system is undergoing tests outside the Commission context, at the Nuclear Research Centre in Karlsruhe and the French Société Nationale des Industries Aérospatiales and at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. Preliminary results are highly promising.

3.2.3 Calls for proposals

The calls for proposals issued in 1982/83 in the IDST field resulted in a number of proposals which were considered worthy of being looked at by MULTI because of their multilingual aspects. After examining the projects, the Group recommended that further information should be obtained on the projects so that one or more of them could be carried out in 1984.

3.2.4 Future orientation of activities

New guidelines are to be drawn up on future work in the multilingual field (on the basis of a revised version of Doc. CIDST/480/81). The criteria for project approval in connection with thesauri are also to be supplemented by guidelines on maintenance and updating. An effort must also be made to improve the infrastructure in this area.

As an additional means for obtaining good project proposals, and for the sake of better publicity for the multilingual activities for specialised information services, special calls for proposals for multilingual projects will be prepared.

In the future the Group will be more active in promoting the extension and application of the multilingual tools created by the Commission and will be particularly concerned with the provision and use of terminology banks and the Systran machine translation system.

In order to contribute even better to the central targets of the Community programme for the specialised information market, particularly to the establishment of joint European ventures for the co-production and world-wide marketing of basic bibliographic data bases and services in all subject fields relying on public subsidies, the group and its secretariat will set up closer links with CIDST's sectoral working groups and task forces, the European host operators' group, and other competent bodies concerned with sectoral information services in the Community.

3.3 Information on agriculture (AWG)

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. D'AMBROSIO (I), assisted by the Vice-chairmen Mr. REILLY (IRL) and Mr. BALAY (F), later replaced by Mr. RUTGERS (NL), this group placed the main emphasis of its work during the reference period on the

- consolidation and reorientation of continuous systems, such as AGREP and EUR-AGRIS;
- accomplishment of projects or of studies, which required a one-off financing (or were at no cost);
- implementation of value-added information services;
- stimulation of the use of appropriate new technologies;
- indication of future projects (outlook).

3.3.1 Consolidation and reorientation of continuous systems

3.3.1.1 Permanent Inventory of Agricultural Research Projects in the EEC (AGREP)

AGREP is based on the Council Regulation N° 1728/74 on the coordination of agricultural research. The Project Advisory Board which assists the Commission in the control of AGREP reports to the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR) in Brussels. AGREP was implemented in 1976 and is updated yearly. It is available in printed and machine readable form, the latter being accessible on-line through Euronet DIANE. AGREP contains title citations of about 21.000 agricultural research projects.

3.3.1.2 EUR-AGRIS (European Community contribution to AGRIS)

Since 1974 EEC Member countries provide a joint input to the International Information System for Agricultural Science and Technology (AGRIS), which is sponsored by FAO, Rome, and started operation in 1975. Besides the provision of the joint EEC input to AGRIS, EUR-AGRIS tries to meet specific needs of European users while respecting compatibility with the overall system. To this end a range of actions were undertaken; for example, in 1980, AGRIS was made available on-line on Euronet DIANE.

EUROPEE

It has been decided now to reorganise the EUR-AGRIS input processing. Based on some Community grants out of the 3rd Action plan budget (Project A 30, automation of EUR-AGRIS input), the N.F.P.s (11) will submit input in machine readable form directly to FAO/Vienna. The problem of a further improvement of input collection, processing and of promotion of the system will also be tackled, based on the regular EUR-AGRIS budget.

3.3.2 Accomplishment of projects and studies, which required a one-off financing (or were at no cost)

3.3.2.1 Survey of agricultural information systems in the European Community (A 17)

A first Survey of the World Agricultural Documentation Services was compiled in 1972-73.

The second one (1981-1982) not only covers bibliographical databases but also factual data banks and specific information systems for advisory services.

The final survey was delivered in January 1982 and soon after the data base became available on Euronet. The printed version is in press for EUR reports.

3.3.2.2 ADO - Animal Disease Occurrence (A 04)

Details on this system were given in the 4th Activity Report (page 20).

After an additional Community grant, meant for system promotion, the system is now fully operational and financed by other than Community funds.

3.3.2.3 Instructors' guide to computerized bibliographical data bases and factual data banks in the agricultural field for on-line use (A 22)

As a follow-up action to the training course held in December 1979 in Cologne (for details see 4th Activity Report - p. 20) and based on the experience gained there, the course material has been redrafted, repackaged and upgraded in such a way that it can be used as a "training package" or instructors' guide which aids the organisation of online courses, similar to that in Cologne, in the Member countries. The guide covers the major eight bibliographic data bases and factual data banks, appropriate retrieval systems and sample searches. It was completed and published end of 1981.

(11) National Focal Points.

3.3.2.4 2nd Pilot training course for on-line use of agricultural information systems (A20/82) (in the French and Italian languages)

This course was organised in October 1983 in Rome and was directed to the audience which did not participate in the first course in Cologne for reasons of language.

3.3.2.5 IDST support for the establishment of an Action Plan implementing the Council Decision 78/902/EEC on joint research programmes in agriculture (A 21)

Under this heading special bibliographies were compiled on questions related to the research programmes mentioned above. The bibliographic listings covered as completely as possible both the ongoing research and relevant publications. About 50 such bibliographies have been compiled. The project was accomplished end 1981. Due to its positive results, many users have asked for follow-up actions to this project.

3.3.2.6 EURO-Articles - an extension work in agriculture (A 26)

A pilot action was started aiming at stimulating exchange of articles of this kind between relevant journals within some EC countries. Contrary to AWG's advise, the Commission proposed to abandon this project as a consequence of lack of staff and need of concentrating on more comprehensive projects. (Final decision still pending.)

3.3.2.7 Document AWG/096/XIII/80 (Rev. 3) "Some information needs of the European Community in selected fields of agriculture"

With a view to outlining a comprehensive framework for future projects, the AWG, in conjunction with the Commission services (DG XIII and DG VI) and some outside specialists, has accomplished the preparation of this document in December 1980. This comprehensive document has inspired and influenced most of the activities within the framework of agricultural information in the reference period and still indicates gaps and needs the Community should deal with in the near future.

3.3.3 Implementation of value added information services

To this end, two different procedures were used:

- the call for proposals (March 1983)
- the tendering procedure.

3.3.3.1 In the "call" procedure proposers took advantage of the guidance given by doc. AWG/096/80/XIII/Rev. 3 (complemented by an updating addendum), which was offered to interested applicants as a non-committing synopsis of problems in this area. The Commission received 32 proposals, of which four were selected for further consideration and recommended for financial support during 1984.

3.3.3.2 Under the "traditional" tendering procedure the following projects aimed at disseminating value added agricultural information among non scientific people and to train them in its use, were worked out:

- Data bank on zoonoses (A24) based on a sample data bank set up by a task force.

- Pilot training course for information intermediaries in agriculture (A29/1). This course is scheduled to be held in 1984. Also based on the experience of previous training courses (see points 3.3.2.3 and 3.3.2.4) it will put emphasis on preparation of and on access to analysed and value added information, as well as on transfer of relevant know-how between the various EC countries.

- Pilot review articles on agricultural hot topics (A29/2). This project, as a follow-up of project A21 (see point 3.3.2.5) will put emphasis on analysed agricultural information on hot topics, which will be presented in a form suitable for its users, such as general and specialised advisers in the various EC countries. It is also intended to stimulate the transfer of relevant know-how between the various EC countries.

3.3.4 Stimulating the use of new information technologies

In view of strengthening operational systems (see points 3.3.1.1 and 3.3.1.2) the following projects were started:

- Automation of EUR-AGRIS input (A30)

- Application of VIDEOTEX to dissemination of agricultural information between farmers and farmers' organisations in some E.C. countries (A31/1 and 2)

To this end a study was accomplished in September 1983 in view of setting up pilot experiments on certain rural areas of Ireland, Italy and Greece. Based on this study, and on the preparation of an appropriate structure for agricultural VIDEOTEX data bases (VIDEOGREENTREE A31/2), pilot experiments are expected to start at the end of 1984.

3.3.5 Outlook

AWG recommended that based on some non-accepted proposals stemming from the "call" and from other available inputs, proposals should be made to work out information systems

- on crop protection
- on agricultural markets (including prices).

Future activities should be based on the answers to the following questions

- which existing factual data banks should be improved using Community resources;
- which actions are necessary in order to improve the access to existing information systems in agriculture.

3.4 Information on biomedicine and health care (BWG) including biotechnology (BIOTECH)

During the period under review the BWG was chaired by Mr BECKERS (B), assisted by Mrs WOLFF-TERROINE (F) and Mr VAN EIMEREN (FRG).

Since 1982 the Task force "Information on biotechnology", whose mandate was approved by CIDST at the June 1982 meeting worked, under the aegis of BWG. Until April 1983 the chairman of the Task force was Mrs PRIEELS (B), who was succeeded by Mrs FRONTALI (I). The deputy chairman is Mr PRINTZ (F).

3.4.1 Biomedical Projects

3.4.1.1 Collaboration among drug data banks in the European Community and linking of these banks with Euronet (BM 1)

Studies BM 1 A and BM 1 B carried out several years ago (on formats for manual and automatic exchange between centres) indicated that there were significant technical differences between the drug data banks of the various centres. For this reason the Commission requested BWG to conduct a further feasibility study among the national centres (BM 1 C) before an action programme was launched to standardize the systems used.

Further work will depend on the results of this study. At the BWG meeting on 12 October 1983 the BM 1 C contractor reported on the findings of the study. The eight European drug data banks participating in the survey had no objection to the link-up to Euronet. However, problems arose in connection with the cost of cooperation and with the requirement for a common command language. BWG decided to set up a contact group which would take a closer look at the problems involved in the project, with a view to achieving an acceptable solution which would take account of latest developments in this field.

3.4.1.2 Biomedical terminology and metalanguages (BM 2)

This project constitutes the terminological tool of project BM 1 and involves the compilation of a nomenclature for lists of correspondences, their use, updating and conversion to an on-line data base. The project cannot be implemented until project BM 1 has begun.

3.4.1.3 Minimum basic data set within the EEC (BM 3)

The main objectives of this project are to reduce costs, to promote the exchange of data between hospitals and to establish national and international hospital statistics. A survey by questionnaire was conducted among approximately 100 hospitals in nine Community countries, and at a seminar held in Brussels in September 1981 the phases of a pilot project to follow the now completed theoretical work were prepared.

As a result of these activities a Joint Working Group (JWG) on "Health information and informatics" was set up to advise the Commission departments involved. The JWG has so far met three times. It includes representatives of MRC (12) and its subgroups "Epidemiology" and HSR (13), as well as of BWG.

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(12) Medical Research Committee.

(13) Health Service Research.

So far two projects have been proposed by the JWG:

- JWG 1 (clearing house on the minimum basic data set);

- JWG 3 B (Applicability of the MBDS to obstetrics).

The project justification sheets and technical specifications were available for discussion by BWG at its last meeting in October. Financing under the 3rd Action Plan was recommended in principle for project JWG 3 B by CIDST on 17 November 1983.

A solution to the problem of the long-term financing of project JWG 1 must be found before it can be submitted to CIDST for its recommendation.

3.4.1.4 Permanent inventory of biomedical research projects (BM 4)

Following lengthy preparations for this inventory (MEDREP), which will be analogous to the inventories on research in agriculture (AGREP) and the environment (ENREP), the project was recommended by CIDST in June 1983 and has since begun, following the signing of the contract. It is intended to update the existing EBRI inventory (1^4) and incorporate it in the MEDREP inventory. The contractor will cooperate with the focal points to be designated by the national delegations. Research projects covered by the radiobiology programme will also be included in MEDREP.

3.4.1.5 Inventory of existing information systems in biomedicine and health care (BM 7)

After the project had been approved by CIDST and the contract had been signed in March 1982, considerable delays were encountered initially in the survey by questionnaire. These have since been sorted out. The survey is now under way and will provide a much-needed review of existing factual and literature data banks and systems used in biomedicine and health care.

(1^4) European Biomedical Engineering Research Inventory.

3.4.1.6 Information systems on technical aids for the elderly and disabled (BM 8)

Two projects to provide an indication of existing technical aids for the elderly and handicapped and a comprehensive study into setting up an information system, including the thesaurus needed on this field, were worked out by a special working group and then presented to BWG and CIDST which recommended it to the Commission.

3.4.1.7 European Journal of Medical Effectiveness (BM 9)

The Journal is problem-orientated rather than geared to specific medical fields or academic disciplines. The aim of the project is to provide reliable information on medically effective, socially acceptable and cost-effective methods of health care for health service managers and health care professionals in the EEC. The methods can then be applied in hospitals using hospital funds.

The first two issues appeared in June and August, the third in November 1983.

The fourth volume of the Journal is now in preparation. The project is to be continued with financial back-up for promotional work.

3.4.1.8 Call for proposals

Following the call for proposals published on 6 May 1983 in the fields of Biomedicine, Health Care and Biotechnology 28 proposals were made. 5 projects were selected and proposed to CIDST for advise and recommendation to the Commission.

Some other interesting proposals will be examined by the group for an eventual realisation under the "traditional" procedure.

3.4.1.9 Planned seminars

Two seminars have been scheduled for 1984 on the following topics, which the BWG considers highly important:
- a comparative assessment of hospital information systems;
- videotex and information on biomedicine and health care.

3.4.2 Biotechnology projects

3.4.2.1 Setting up of a European data bank on nucleic acid sequences (BIOTECH 1)

This project is to be carried out in cooperation with several centres on the basis of work carried out by the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), Heidelberg.

EMBL will reinforce its data base activities in the collection, screening, management and distribution of nucleic acid sequences. The development of the central collection at EMBL will remain closely linked with developments in national centres such as Bari, Cambridge, Paris and Lyon (the latter being the centres of the French system). The project also provides for assistance in organizing working meetings and visits to Heidelberg or to the national centres for those working in this field. Aid is also scheduled for the setting-up and incidental expenses of a scientific guidance committee, whose responsibilities will include advising on the execution of the contract and the preparation of plans and proposals for appropriate further development of nucleic acid sequence data banks in Europe.

3.4.2.2 European Biotechnology Information and Referral Centre (BIOTECH 2)

The aim of the project is to set up a biotechnological information centre which will be a focal point for information, referral and network management services throughout the Community. The idea is that the centre will have recourse to subject specialists to provide information and to exploit the multidisciplinary resources of libraries in Western Europe on behalf of industry, universities and researchers, and to form a centre for cooperation which has contacts with specialized centres and collections.

3.4.2.3 Micro-organism culture collections (BIOTECH 3)

Preliminary assessment of the feasibility and resource requirements of a computerized EEC information system for micro-organism culture collections.

The aim of the study is to identify the major culture collections in the Community, including their size and type, and to describe the way in which data on isolates are held and the form in which they are presented. The second part of the study will evaluate the feasibility of the project and possible options for structuring the data and the relationships between them in an integrated computerized system with on-line access.

3.4.2.4 Information on enzymes (BIOTECH 4)

Staff of the enzyme engineering and computer science department of the Technological University of Compiègne will undertake a systematic study of user needs (academic, industrial, medical and other) for information on enzymes and related systems (e.g. immobilized enzyme systems). The study will consider in particular the following points:

- identification of categories of enzyme users (including both research interests and practical applications) and their respective requirements;
- existing sources of enzyme information and their adequacy;
- economic aspects of data acquisition, organization and storage, and dissemination via the Compiègne BADGE data bank or similar systems, in terms of current operation and of their possible extension on a European scale (costs, revenue, dependence on scale of activity and pattern of operation).

3.4.2.5 Information systems on collections of micro-organisms and cells (MIRDAB) (BIOTECH 5)

A seminar on the development and integration of European information systems on collections of micro-organisms and cells on the basis of initiatives on the part of specialized organizations and of a user resuirements analysis was held in Brussels on 24 May 1983.

MIRDAB is a factual data bank associated with Excerpta Medica and containing pertinent information on germinative plasmas of scientific and biotechnological importance. It will concentrate on organisms not included in collections at international level, such as pland and animal cells in combination with organisms; these are particularly significant because of their current and future roles in biotechnological production.

3.4.2.6 European data bank of alternatives to animal toxicological test (BIOTECH 6)

Animal toxicological tests are performed throughout the Community as a necessary step in the development and approval of new chemicals. There is need to develop new non-animal tests which are less costly and more accurate (for some purposes). This proposal will investigate the feasibility of establishing a database which could be used by industry and research institutes to share information on non-animal methods of testing.

The study, which was recommended by BWG and CIDST, should provide information on the practical and scientific objections to a data bank and on the conditions of access and confidentiality which would be acceptable to potential contributors from research and industry.

3.4.2.7 Data bank on safety in biotechnology (BIOTECH 7)

OECD has already been active in this field. No further steps on this project should therefore be taken until the results of OECD's work are known.

3.5 Information on the environment (ENIG)

During the reporting period the Group was chaired by Mr. CURRAN (IRL). The elected Vice-chairmen were Messrs DOOMS (B) and DE LA-VIETER (NL). In 8 meetings held during this period the activities of ENIG have concentrated on the storage of environmental information, the exchange of this information between the national centres and, in particular, with making the information available to users.

The Group's work was carried out in accordance with the Action plans of DG XIII and DG XI.

The following projects were developed further in the past three years:

3.5.1 ENREP (inventory of research projects in the Community)
This file now contains just over 25 000 projects; it is available in printed form and may be interrogated on the ECHO host computer.

3.5.2 ENDOC (inventory of information and documentation centres in the Community)
This data base (with around 510 sources) is also available in printed form and may be interrogated via Euronet.

3.5.3 ENEX (Community environmental protection experts)
This file is available in book form.

3.5.4 ENLEX (information system on environmental protection legislation)
The first magnetic tapes have been produced and will be placed as soon as possible at the disposal of users for retrieval via Euronet.

3.5.5 ENLIT (data bank on environmental literature)
The first data have been submitted to the Commission by the national centres and will later also be made available to on-line users via Euronet.

3.5.6 EWADAT (European waste management data bank)
A major study was carried out to assess the need to set up an information system of this kind. The Commission and Parliament regard the establishment of such a data bank as a matter of priority (waste materials exchange, recycling, etc).

3.5.7 ENLOCFAC (local factual data bank in the Community)
A study on the creation of this major data bank was recommended by ENIG and CIDST.

3.5.8 MEI (marketing of environmental information)
This project is intended to promote the use of available environmental information. Attention will be drawn to the fact that, although environmental information is not a commercial proposition, it is nonetheless indispensable.

3.5.9 TOX-WASTE (toxic waste)
It is planned to carry out a study on incorporating a file of this kind in EWADAT. The Seveso incident underlined the importance of establishing an information system on the storage and transport of noxious substances.

3.5.10 PCT (pollution control technology)
This project is still being discussed by the Group.

3.5.11 ECDIN (Environmental Chemical Data and Information Network)
ENIG has frequently advised DG XIII/XII on this project.

3.5.12 Call for proposals

Following the call for proposals published on 4 March 1983 in the field of information on the environment 20 proposals were made. 3 projects were selected and proposed to CIDST for advice and recommendation to the Commission.

One other interesting proposal will be examined by the group for an eventual realisation under the "traditional" procedure.

3.6 Information on Energy (ENER)

In 1983 this Group held a meeting first as a preparatory task force, and after its terms of reference had been adopted by CIDST in June 1983 it held two plenary meetings to prepare its working programme.

Mrs. BRENIERE (F) headed the preparatory task force and was subsequently appointed Chairman of the Group by CIDST. At its October 1983 meeting the Groupe elected Mr. BEHRENS (D) and Mr. JONES (UK) vice-chairmen.

3.6.1 The Group began its work by drawing up its draft terms of reference and outlining its main areas of emphasis and its priorities which will relate mainly to the following:

- a complete inventory and detailed description of data bases relating exclusively or in part to energy which are produced in the Community or elsewhere and ara available via Community hosts. This project will be made possible by the voluntary contributions of the Group members;

- a detailed breakdown of consumption in the domestic sector.

3.6.2 Discussions to determine the main areas of emphasis also highlighted the need to harmonize and standardize existing data, to draw up an inventory of research projects on energy and to initiate information and documentation work in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. Coordination with the activities of the other Commission Departments has been strongly recommended, and first results in this area are very positive.

3.6.3 The Group has also contemplated organizing and implementing a new "call for proposals" in the field of energy information.

4. Action programme for the development of the specialized information market in Europe

4.1 To continue and extend the activities planned, started and completed under the first three three-year Action plans in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation, a further informal meeting was held in May 1982 in Murnau, Upper Bavaria, between several Committee members and Commission representatives to discuss how best to organize future activities on completion of the 3rd Plan of action.

In addition to the main areas of emphasis of the special action programme on electronic publishing and document delivery, it was agreed that a Community information market policy should be developed in the long term to supplement the programme, then in preparation, to develop and promote new information technologies (ESPRIT) and the Community telematics programme.

The preparatory work for the elaboration of an information market policy, reaching far beyond the needs for the development of the specialized information market, was started by the Commission during 1983 (see also point 2.3.7).

4.2 A priority measure initiated after the November 1982 meeting, at which a first draft was presented, was the discussion, starting at a special CIDST meeting in December 1982, of a proposal by DG XIII-B for a medium and long-term action programme to develop the specialized information market. The programme was revised at the subsequent meetings in February and June 1983, as well as by the drafting group set up for that purpose.

4.3 The final version of the proposal was approved by written procedure after the June 1983 meeting, together with the opinion of the Committee, and was then submitted at the end of August 1983 to the Commission and CREST with a copy for the Council.

The Commission formally approved the proposed programme at the end of October 1983 as a five-year programme with a budget of 40 million ECU (rather than a permanent programme to be constantly reviewed with a renewable annual budget) and submitted to the Council for its decision (15).

4.4 November 1983 saw the start of consultations of CREST, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on the content of the five-year programme outlined below:

A. Improvement of the information environment and market conditions

The main objective is to improve the use of information products and services of European origin in order to ensure, as far as possible, their economic viability. This is to be achieved by taking appropriate action on existing obstacles, thus resulting in increased user friendliness and more transparence for information supply and demand.

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(15) The Council had not reached a decision by the time this report was completed.

The activities to be pursued include:

a) Technical aspects

b) Linguistic aspects

c) Administrative aspects

d) Economic aspects

e) Legal aspects

f) Policy aspects

g) Awareness and training

B. Reinforcement of the supply and quality of European products and services

The objective is to create or develop specialized information products and services of European origin which are innovative and unique, and which offer added value with a view to improving the competitiveness of European suppliers on the European and the world markets, as well as their responsiveness to the needs of a wide range of users, thus creating a relative European independance. This is to be achieved through the encouragement of innovative and entrepreneurial initiatives to include

a) Information projects in sectoral fields

b) Added value information services

4.5 During the programme the Committee will, in line with its special mandate, advise the Commission on details of the programme's implementation. Should the Council also decide in favour of establishing a specific information market policy , the Committee is prepared to advise the Commission on these activities as well in accordance with its mandate, the scope of which would then have to be broadened.

APPENDIX I

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CIDST MEETINGS
1981 - 1983

1981	35th	10 - 12 March
	36th	30 June - 2 July
	37th	10 - 11 November
1982	38th	16 - 17 February
	39th	7 - 9 June
	40th	12 - 13 October
1983	41st	24 - 25 February
	42nd	9 - 10 June
	43rd	17 - 18 November

European Communities — Commission

EUR 9335 — Fifth report on the activities of the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) of the European Communities (1981-83)

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The five-year programme which the Commission proposed in October 1983 in order to achieve this development, and which is also intended to ensure the continuity of the projects started under the third action plan, is at present awaiting the Council's decision.

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