

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM (78) 213 final

Brussels, 26 May 1978

Amended Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

adopting a second three-year plan of action in the field of information
and documentation on science and technology

(Submitted to the Council by the Commission)

Pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty

COM (78) 213 final

Communication from the Commission to the Council

On 13 July 1977 the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Council decision adopting a second three-year plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation.

At that time, the opinion of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST), whose contribution in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation was provided for in the Council resolutions of 24 June 1971 and 14 January 1974, had not yet been officially formulated; as is now known from CREST's opinion No. R/2921/77 (RECH 40) of 25 November 1977, its recommendation is that the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) should function on the lines of an advisory committee on programme management (ACPM); this new definition appears to have two advantages:

- first it eliminates certain ambiguities and provides a better definition of CIDST's role;
- secondly, it brings the procedure for the field of scientific and technical information and documentation into line with those already in operation for various other fields of research and development and applicable to several programmes already decided upon by the Council.

The proposal for a Council decision has therefore been amended in the light of the above.

... / ...

At its plenary session from 13 to 17 March 1978, the European Parliament expressed a favourable opinion on the second three-year plan of action, subject to the addition of a third indent to paragraph 2 of annex 1 to the Commission's proposal, worded as follows:

' to improve access to information for small and medium-sized undertakings so that the development of a common market in scientific and technical information on the one hand produces more equal conditions of competition, while on the other it is in the common interest for all scientific and technical findings to be available for development and exploitation by the greatest possible number of undertakings.'

This amendment consolidates the arrangements which the Commission intends to make for the benefit of small and medium-sized undertakings, and, for this reason, it has been incorporated into the proposal for a Council decision.

A certain number of third countries in Europe have unofficially informed the Commission of their intention to join EURONET (European telecommunications network for data transmission); in particular, the Swiss Confederation has recently begun exploratory talks with the consortium of PTT administrations commissioned to set up EURONET on behalf of the Community, to gain a better appreciation of the technical conditions pertaining to possible Swiss membership of the network; it is known that in principle the consortium is largely favourable to the membership of countries whose administrations are members of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT). The participation of Switzerland, or other third country members of CEPT, would clearly be to the advantage of the Community, first since it would allow improved use of network capacity as a result of the increased number of users and secondly because of further data that these countries could contribute from their own data bases, and these data would then be accessible to Community users.

The new article 4 of the proposal for a Council decision is intended to enable such agreements to be negotiated and concluded.

... / ...

The Commission, therefore, in accordance with article 149(2) of the EEC Treaty, modifies its above mentioned proposal of 13.7.77. The amended text is attached.

Are also attached the opinions of :

the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST) of 7 April 1977 and

the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) of 7/8 November 1977.

Amended
Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

adopting a second three-year plan of action in the field of
information and documentation on science and technology .

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas a resolution was adopted by the Council and the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council on 24 June 1971 for the coordination of the activities of Member States in the field of information and documentation on science and technology (IDST);

Whereas under Article 2 of the Treaty, the Community has as one of its tasks to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities and a continuous and balanced expansion;

Whereas the proliferation of information systems and their rapid but disparate progress as a result of the competition among both public and private ventures make the establishment of the European network proposed in the Resolution of 24 June 1971 a matter of urgency;

Whereas the results achieved by the first three-year plan of action in the field of information and documentation on science and technology, adopted by the Council on 18 March 1975, justify the setting up of this network which would effectively contribute to the achievement of the above mentioned objectives of the Treaty;

Whereas the Treaty has not provided the necessary powers

Whereas the Council adopted a Resolution on 14 January 1974 concerning an initial outline action programme for the European Communities in the field of science and technology;

Whereas the CIDST and the CREST have given their opinion on the Commission proposal,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A second Community plan of action in the field of information and documentation on science and technology, as set out in Annex 1, is hereby adopted for a period of three years from 1 January 1978. Annex 1 forms an integral part of this Decision.

Article 2

The Commission shall implement the plan of action, assisted by the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (CIDST); the functions and method of operation of the CIDST are set out in Annex 2. This Committee and the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) shall be kept regularly informed of the progress of the work. The Commission shall also submit each year to the Council and the European Parliament a full report on the subject which will be included in the General Report.

Article 3

The Commission shall decide on the detailed activities to be carried out under the plan of action after consultation with CIDST and CREST. On this basis, the Commission shall determine the estimates of expenditure and payments for the 1979 and 1980 financial years, in accordance with the budgetary procedure.

Article 4

In accordance with Article 228 of the Treaty, the Community may conclude agreements with third countries participating in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) with a view to extending the framework of the action plan covered by this Decision to the activities carried out in those countries.

The Commission shall be authorized to negotiate the agreements referred to in paragraph 1.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

Annex 1

SECOND 3-YEAR COMMUNITY PLAN OF ACTION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The Plan's major objectives are the following:

1. To turn EURONET into a public operational on-line information network

Bringing into fruition the Community network which will enable users to gain direct access via their own terminals to information of all kinds in data bases mounted on a number of computers at centres of expertise widely distributed in Member countries, is to be a top priority action in the period 1978-1980. Among the essential activities to be undertaken are:

- starting operation of the telecommunications facilities
- connection of host computers and user terminals
- fulfilment of operational responsibilities, including financial and technical management
- making arrangements for connections to other networks
- developing cooperation with the PTT administrations.

Priority will be given to the expansion and upgrading of the network in order to maintain ease and equality of access by users in all Member States.

2. To develop a common market for scientific and technical information

This section of the Action Plan aims at merging the many different interests involved, in order to stimulate the development of a true and healthy Community information market with the over-riding objective of providing concrete benefits for the user. Major efforts will be made:

- to ensure implementation of formally defined cooperation with mutually agreed rights and commitments between existing information services in the Community, especially with a view to rationalisation, improved quality and reduction of overall cost, within a framework of open competition;

- to assist the user to make effective use of each type and source of information, in order to contribute to the social and economic goals of the Community;
- to improve access to information for small and medium-sized undertakings so that the development of a common market in scientific and technical information on the one hand produces more equal conditions of competition, while on the other it is in the common interest for all scientific and technical findings to be available for development and exploitation by the greatest possible number of undertakings.

Activities to be undertaken will include investigation of user needs, user support, training of users and specialists, promotion of the network, development of information systems and services, including sectoral activities, and contributing to international information services.

3. To promote technology and methodology for improving information services, with special emphasis on those of EURONET

In accordance with the Council Resolution of 24 June 1971 which called for coordination among the Member States with regard to technological progress in the science and processing of documentation, this part of the Action Plan aims primarily at building on certain important work already underway and at ensuring that user interests are safeguarded in the context of emerging technological developments insofar as they affect on-line access to scientific and technical information. Particular areas for action include cooperation with the PTT administrations in developing standards and new applications for EURONET, assistance to the user with regard to using the different systems available via the network, support for information exchange standards, pilot projects in applying advanced information technology, the promotion of information exchange on information technology, IDST aspects of multilingual systems.

The action to be taken to achieve the above objectives will be carried out mainly under contract with competent organisations in the Member States and may be extended to organisations to third countries under appropriate conditions.

DUTIES AND METHOD OF OPERATION OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION
COMMITTEE (CIDST)

1. Without prejudice to the responsibility assumed by the Commission in carrying out the second three-year plan of action in the field of information and documentation in science and technology the CIDST shall contribute by its opinions to the optimum execution of the plan.

2. Under the second plan of action, the Commission shall consult the CIDST on all measures which it intends to take for:
 - (a) turning EURONET into a public operational on-line information network,
 - (b) the development of a common market in scientific and technological information,
 - (c) the promotion of technology and methodology in order to improve information services, in particular those of EURONET.

3. The Commission shall also seek the opinion of the CIDST on:
 - (a) preparing for future work in this field,
 - (b) co-ordinating the second plan of action with related programmes, and with the multilingual programme in particular,
 - (c) conducting negotiations with non-Community institutions, such as institutions in third countries and the responsible telecommunications bodies under contract to set up EURONET.

4. The CIDST should also be asked to give an opinion on:
 - (a) the working out of policies in detail, with priorities;
 - (b) the determination of financial needs and allocation of approved funds;
 - (c) the determination of the aims of, and budgets for projects;
 - (d) the specification of work to be done and the determination of criteria for the selection of contractors,
 - (e) the choice of contractors and the supervision of the projects.

5. The CIDST shall give opinions which are prepared by the Secretariat and submitted for the approval of the Committee. Any member of the Committee may request that his point of view be set forth in these opinions. These opinions shall be forwarded to the Commission and a copy sent to the Council.

6. The CIDST shall lay down, in agreement with the Commission, the procedure for examining the measures referred to under 2, 3 and 4. This procedure should not interrupt the carrying out of the plan of action, particularly in the case of emergencies. In order to provide for flexible management, certain tasks shall be delegated to working parties.

7. The Commission shall periodically submit a report to the CIDST on the measures taken and the results obtained.

8. The CIDST shall consist of two representatives from each Member State, appointed for three years. The Member States may also appoint two alternates.

9. The CIDST shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

10. The Commission shall provide the Secretariat of the CIDST.
 11. The provisions of this Annex shall not modify the other tasks assigned to the CIDST in the Resolution of 24 June 1971, nor its advisory relationship to CREST.
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Plan of Action 1978 - 80 : Detailed Proposals

1. Motivation

A key factor for the economic success of the European Community must be improved facility of transfer of information on scientific, technical, economic and social matters available in the Member States. Viewed together, the mass of information already existing or being created represents an enormously powerful resource for European industry, commerce and government, and for the citizen. The task of optimising the distribution and exploitation of this resource, covering the whole range from wholesaling to retailing and personalisation of information, can be compared in scale, importance and complexity with that for energy or raw materials.

Indeed, there are strong grounds for believing that the information field may be one of Europe's main lines of resource development in the coming years. Poor in raw materials and facing ever-increasing low-cost manufacturing competition from the developing countries, the Community has to look more and more to its own resources. The wealth of intellectual capability, typified by scientific research, gives the Community a rich source of 'raw material' for information processing. Scientific, technical, economic and social information is needed to prime progress within the Community itself, but at the same time gives a significant opportunity for achieving a major position in the world as a whole with regard to the Community's external commerce of this resource.

In accordance with the general goal of the Community to promote harmonious development of economic activities, the first essential step towards the exploitation of this potential Community strength is therefore the creation of a true common market of information within the Community itself. The aims of this common information market are to make available all the different information sources to all potential users (engineers, economists, administrators,

agriculturalists, doctors, research workers, etc.) throughout the Community under favourable and non-discriminatory conditions of access. From a strong, rational Community market can be built the extensions to the world at large.

2. Goals and objectives defined by the Council

The above considerations were the key issues underlying the Council of Ministers' Resolution of 24 June 1971 which addressed itself to coordinating the action of the Member States in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation. The Resolution defined the need for specific action in certain areas, including:

- the establishment of a European documentation and information network for all persons who need such information, using the most modern methods and under the most favourable conditions regarding speed and expense;
- the drawing up of rules and procedures aimed at ensuring the cohesiveness of such a network;
- the encouragement of the training of specialists and the education of users;
- the encouragement of technological progress in the science and processing of documentation.

The aims and principles of the 1971 Resolution were made concrete by the elaboration of a Community "First 3-year plan of action in the field of information and documentation in science and technology", which was approved by the Council of Ministers on 18 March 1975. This Action Plan, which runs until December 1977, is based on three broad strategic elements:

- . Creation and development of sectoral information systems
- . Creation of the network
- . Development and promotion of the tools and infrastructure necessary for progress in information technology.

The initiatives undertaken within these three fields of activity have already produced results in a number of areas.

3. Achievements of the 1st Action Plan, 1975 - 77

The following summary presents an overview of major results achieved during the first two years of the Action Plan:

- . Policy guidelines have been worked out in cooperation with the CIDST, relating to the provision and use of information services to be made available via the Community network now being implemented. These guidelines specifically recognise the different interests of the many parties involved (users, PTTs, host computer operators, data base suppliers, the Commission, equipment suppliers, etc.) and have the aim of presenting a balanced set of principles within which a common market of information can develop. The principles deal with such topics as user rights, voluntary standardisation, free competition and the rights and the responsibilities of service suppliers. The guidelines are expected to have an important influence in promoting cooperation among the Member States in the field of scientific and technical information.

- . Several important data bases are being created through cooperative effort at Community level. Notably, the critical fields of environment, energy and agriculture now have the benefit of comprehensive files on such topics as environmental and agricultural research projects, and the economics of energy. Furthermore, cooperation among existing national services has been encouraged and among the initiatives now underway in which the Community has played a leading role are joint efforts in the fields of drug banks and physics.

- . The original contract (of 15 December 1975) with the Community PTTs to provide a telecommunications network for EURONET must rank as a milestone in European telecommunications. Firstly, the contract aims at overcoming a critical European problem in the provision of scientific and technical information services, by establishing international facilities specifically for data transmission. Secondly, the contract for the first time brings together all the nine PTTs of the Member States in implementing a common solution, using a common technology. Thirdly, the contract makes specific provision for the EURONET telecommunications network to provide the basis of a general purpose PTT-operated Community data transmission network. Fourthly, important additional benefits are emerging for the industrial market with regard to the standardisation of computer/ telecommunications equipment and procedures. Notably, the EURONET project has played a key role in the development of the X25 interface and is the major influence in bringing about a standard terminal protocol, ESP (32).

- . The Action Plan for the first time systematically appraised and proposed practical measures for alleviating the special problem of the Community arising from the multiplicity of languages. As a result of the work undertaken within the first Action Plan, a specific, separate programme of actions has been prepared to develop and test multilingual tools, such as the compilation of multilingual vocabularies in selected subject fields, the creation of terminology data banks and the development of automated translation systems.

- . First, yet important, steps have been taken to provide improved support for the user of scientific and technical information. Emphasis on this general area of user needs

corresponds particularly to the views of the Union des Industries de la Communauté Européenne (UNICE), which in welcoming EURONET in a public statement, gave many helpful recommendations in the interests of the user. Actions so far undertaken in this area have included a feasibility study for a common command language for the on-line use of data bases. The results of the study have indicated that such a language is feasible and that it would bring benefits to a wide range of users. A second example of the measures initiated to help users is the collaboration of the Commission with the European Association of Scientific Information Dissemination Centres, which has initiated a European project (EJSIREF) for the purpose of advising users on the availability of information services.

- . The level of interest in a Community approach to scientific and technical information services is well illustrated by the fact that by the end of 1976 some 27 host computers offering over 100 data bases had been proposed by the Member States for connection to EURONET. These numbers are far higher than those foreseen when the Action Plan was originally formulated. Major efforts to build on this interest by developing specific means of cooperation are already underway. For example, the technical problems of connecting the computers to the network are being studied jointly wherever possible with manufacturers, PTTs, the Commission and host operators (primarily depending on the computer models concerned). A working group composed of members of the Commission, CIDST and the International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board (representing many major data base suppliers) has already prepared draft guidelines for data base supply, thus promoting voluntary harmonisation and rationalisation.

The above points are intended to indicate the substantial effects which have already been made noticeable by the first Action Plan. However, on a more general level the major impact of the Plan has been its effect in bringing about a unity of purpose and focus for policy making in the Community in the field of scientific and technical information. The first Action Plan therefore provides a basis for further action in the field of scientific and technical information in the Community.

4. Guidelines for proposed action

The entry into service of EURONET is not a goal in itself, but rather a point of departure for a more global, long-term effort to provide the cooperation and sharing of resources spelled out by the Council of Ministers in their 1971 Resolution, including not only computerised but also non-computerised information. Hence the aims of the second Action Plan are:

- to turn EURONET into a public operational on-line information network, thereby
 - overcoming national barriers to information flow, notably by development of the data network, and
 - improving accessibility to existing services, for example by promoting referral services;
 - developing on this basis a public network at the earliest possible date;
- to develop a common market for scientific and technical information, thereby
 - promoting formally defined cooperation with mutually agreed rights and commitments between existing information services in the Community, especially with a view to rationalisation, improved quality and reduction of overall cost, within a framework of open competition;

- assisting the user to make effective use of each type and source of information, with the aim of achieving best possible use of knowledge resources in order to contribute to the social and economic goals of the Community;
- to promote technology and methodology for improving information services, with special emphasis on those of EURONET, thereby
 - ensuring that advantage is taken of technological developments in the field of information handling, for example by the promotion of emerging standards and by selective application of pilot studies where Community-wide benefits are likely to accrue;
 - ensuring that IDST aspects are catered for in the multilingual field.

The main areas for action within this strategic framework are presented in outline in Figure 1 and detailed descriptions are to be found in section 5. A separate programme has been prepared to deal with the broader issues connected with last-named item above (language barriers), but the CIDST has expressed the wish to be associated with IDST aspects of policies and applications in the multilingual field and the sum of 300,000 u.a. has been proposed for this purpose under the Plan of Action.

The broad budgetary strategy is for expenditure to achieve a stable amount of around 3 MAU per annum (1976 prices) for the three years of the second Action Plan. When the network commences operational running, the revenue accruing from use of the network is unlikely to cover running costs and hence an operational deficit is foreseen, declining gradually in the course of time. The development of the Community's information market, on the other hand, is expected to require a relatively constant level of financial support during the period of the second Action Plan. The promotion of technology and methodologies for improving information services, with special emphasis on those of EURONET, requires considerably more than the 17% of the budget allocated in the proposed Action Plan. Because of the Commission's desire to keep the expenditure to 9 MAU for the three years, the sums allocated under Chapter 3 are manifestly insufficient.

It is clear that during the second Action Plan the major part of the funds must go to bringing the ongoing network project to fruition, but it is recognised that this does starve longer-term activities, particularly those in Chapter 3, in the meantime. At a detailed project allocation level, heavy emphasis will be placed on the relationship of benefits at Community level to the expenditure involved. In this regard, close consultation with CIDST and its Working Groups will be the key mechanism for project selection.

The detailed plans of action which follow remain flexible. They reflect the existing discussions and consensus of opinion in the CIDST, but are subject to further discussion and, in every case, to further development or modification in the course of negotiations with our partners who must carry out the bulk of the work, and in particular with the scientific and technical information centres of the Member States.

Figure 1

Main Programme Areas under the

Second Community Action Plan in the Field of

Scientific and Technical Information, 1978 - 80

Chapter 1 : Turning EURONET into a public operational on-line information

network

- 1.1 Starting operation of the telecommunications network
- 1.2 Connection of host computers and terminals
- 1.3 Operational responsibilities
- 1.4 Connections to other information networks
- 1.5 Cooperation with the PTTs on third party traffic

Chapter 2 : Developing a common market for scientific and technical

Information

- 2.1 Investigation of user needs and monitoring use
- 2.2 User referral, guidance and support
- 2.3 Training users and specialists
- 2.4 Promotional activities
- 2.5 Development of information systems and services, including sectoral activities
- 2.6 Contributing to international information services
- 2.7 Commission's host computer for EURONET and related information systems (p.m.)

Chapter 3 : Promotion of technology and methodology for improving

information services, with special emphasis on those

of EURONET

- 3.1 Standardisation of technical interfaces for EURONET host computers and terminals
- 3.2 Developing new IDST uses of EURONET
- 3.3 Common command language
- 3.4 Standards for information exchange
- 3.5 Pilot programmes in applying advanced information technology
- 3.6 Information exchange on information technology
- 3.7 Multilingual tools for IDST

5. Detailed Activities

Chapter 1 : Turning EURONET into a public operational on-line

information network

The development of the Community's first public international on-line information network has been a major feature of the first Action Plan. Due to enter into service by the end of 1978, it represents a key step in overcoming the problems of borders within the Community and will allow users to gain access to information sources wherever they are located. The network will assist progress towards the general goal of the Community to achieve harmonious development of economic activities and furthermore will play an important role in enabling the rapidly growing pressure of competition from outside the Community to be met. Bringing the Community network to fruition is therefore seen as a top priority action in the period 1978 - 80.

1.1 Starting operation of the telecommunications network

Under the terms of the contract of 15 December 1975, concluded between the PTT administrations of the Member States and the Commission, the PTTs are implementing and will operate a telecommunications packet-switched network for EURONET. The Technical Annex to the above-mentioned Contract foresees the setting up and interconnection, via leased lines, of nodes in Frankfurt, London, Paris and Rome, to which both user terminals and host computers can be connected directly or via national networks. Furthermore, five concentrators or multiplexers which will allow terminals to be linked to the system and which will serve as regional connection points for multiple user and host lines, will be situated in Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin and Luxembourg and will be linked to the nearest node by leased lines. The aim is for the telecommunications

network to become self-funding, through cost-recovery from user charges, but during the start-up period it is expected that an operating deficit will be incurred before widespread use of the network has developed. It is planned that the Community will share, up to a defined maximum, in the covering of a possible deficit in the operation of the network that may arise in the first years of operation and thus ensure the network's operation during this critical period. It is foreseen that during this period some further investment at a reduced level will be required to increase reliability by additional back-up equipment, to complete terminal and host connections, especially in those countries for which such host connections will not be made in the initial period, and to provide for enhancement of the network in response to growth in demand. The special aspect of potential spare capacity, pending the establishment of a fully public Community data transmission network, is considered under point 1.5.

1.2 Connection of host computers and terminals

The policy with regard to the connection of host computers and terminals to EURONET is that technical requirements imposed upon user terminals and host computers should be reduced to a minimum. The main responsibility for adapting and connecting a host computer to EURONET, including the associated financing, necessarily lies with the centre itself. However, the Commission, advised by CIDST, may undertake development projects of value to a number of host computers in Member countries or of value to groups of users of EURONET. As the PTTs are responsible for advising users on compatibility with the network protocols, the Commission will concentrate on problems arising out of special requirements regarding user

terminal protocols for using EURONET.

1.3 Operational responsibilities

The EURONET telecommunications network will be managed by the PTTs. However, arrangements must be made for discharging various management responsibilities:

- overall financial equilibrium, including management of the amortization fund, the contingency fund and the portfolio of rights emerging from EURONET (e.g. network software, interface software, multilingual tools, etc.);
- monitoring of the PTT contract, in order to ensure overall planning of host connections and balanced growth of facilities, and the swift passage to public networks with the preservation of established rights of different categories of EURONET partners;
- interfacing and cooperating with the PTTs, especially with regard to market research and network promotion (both within and outside the Community), studying new sources of traffic, monitoring use of the network, user support, tarification, supply of information, publicity and public relations;
- representation function, both within and outside the Community, including negotiations with regard to export markets and outside connections to EURONET (e.g. Switzerland, SCANNET, etc.)

A joint working group composed of representatives of CIDST and the Commission will study the need for and the means of fulfilling such management functions.

1.4 Connections to other information networks

The Council of Ministers' Resolution of 24 June 1971 specifically calls for the association of the centres of other European States in the establishment of information systems or, where appropriate, facilitating their access to such systems. With the emergence of EURONET as a powerful tool for provision of information, it will therefore be necessary to evaluate and, where appropriate, make arrangements, subject to fair and equitable conditions for the possible extension/connection of EURONET to those countries which have a close relationship with the Community, including those of the Lomé Convention.

1.5 Cooperation with the PTTs on third party traffic

The EURONET telecommunications network now being established in accordance with the terms of the contract between the Commission and the Community PTT administrations will have some spare capacity over and above that required for the initial years of EURONET operation. The PTT administrations have always insisted on their intention that the EURONET telecommunications network should act as the embryonic public international data communications network for the Community. It is therefore to be anticipated that they will at an early date offer the facilities to third party traffic, it being understood that this third party traffic should not be detrimental to IDST traffic. The Community itself however has a range of needs for data transmission, such as the interlinking of European parliaments, the exchange of economic, monetary, employment and social data with and between the Member States and the Commission, and the linkage of the Commission to its delegations in the national capitals, etc. Since it is clearly to the financial

advantage of the Community that the surplus capacity be used to a maximum, it is intended to cooperate with the PTT administrations in marketing and administering this surplus capacity, at the same time insisting upon a certain priority for Community use.

The question furthermore arises as to the nature of the longer-term partnership, i.e. what kind of co-responsibility at Community level, if any, should there be for the general provision of international data communications facilities of the type being financed for EURONET.

Chapter 2 : Developing a common market for scientific and technical information

The Community has a great variety of information needs, embracing widely differing types of user groups. Potentially there are many ways of meeting these needs through available Community resources, by both computerised and non-computerised means. It has, however, been a major stumbling block to progress in the use of scientific and technical information within the Community that there has existed no cohesive effort to match the spectrum of user needs with the services available. As a direct benefit of the experience gained under the first Action Plan, there is now a unique opportunity to bring together the various elements of the Community's information scene so as to allow the development of a true common market of information. Promoting such a market calls for a balance between many interacting actors, notably the principle of free competition, user rights, voluntary cooperation and the need to build on what has already been achieved. Chapter 2 of the proposed Action Plan aims at merging such varying interests in order to stimulate the development of a healthy Community information market with the overriding objective of providing concrete benefits for the user.

2.1 Investigation of user needs and monitoring use

The establishment of the telecommunication network will provide for the retrieval and transmission of responses to enquiries for sources of specific scientific and technical information from a wide number of existing data bases. A unique opportunity will then be provided for the Community for the improvement of services and the development of new ones, so as to maximise the utilisation of knowledge resources and thus enable the economic and social growth of the Community to be met more effectively.

In order to develop such services, investigation of the full range of possible needs is required. There is first the requirement to analyse the needs of different types of user, not only on a sectoral basis but also as to functional activities, for example medium and small industries, industrial and other applied research. Furthermore, these needs may be of a multi-disciplinary nature and

involve not only scientific and technical information, but also a complex mixture of scientific and technical, commercial, legal and statistical information and data. To meet these needs, services may be required which provide, either by on-line or by other means, immediately applicable information and data which has been analysed and evaluated. Such services may take the form of data banks, information analysis centres, published 'state of the art' reviews, industrial extension or marketing services, etc.

For the effective development of the IDST data transmission network, it will be necessary to monitor the use made of the various services by different types of user. The effect of different types of marketing activities on the level of use in Member States will be studied to discern the ways in which further development and improvement can be made. Surveys will be made at regular intervals detailing the information flow within sectors and, wherever possible, these will include statistics and analyses available from Member States. This work will be closely coordinated with that of the PTT management centre for the telecommunications network. In this way, the Commission, the CIDST and the PTTs should be in a position, while preserving commercial confidentiality, to be cognizant of both the current and foreseeable status of demand and traffic for EURONET relating to IDST.

2.2 User referral, guidance and support

Based on computerised indices and inventories of information sources in the Community and world-wide inventories maintained by international organisations, a referral and guidance system for EURONET will be developed. A basic function of the referral system will be to guide the user to the 100 or so data bases, including data banks, which are most likely to provide an answer to his query in EURONET or elsewhere. The main tasks will therefore be:

- to study the requirements for user referral and guidance
- to initiate the creation of the appropriate referral system

- to discuss and coordinate this activity with interested organisations such as CODATA, EUSIDIC, FID, ICSU-AB and IFLA (1).
- to disseminate the information gathered to the Member States.

In addition to this referral and guidance activity, support for users will be needed in a variety of other areas, notably the provision of manuals (on a multilingual basis), advice on terminals, etc.

2.3 Training users and specialists

It is recognised that the responsibility for training users and specialists lies primarily at the national level. However, there is an important need for encouragement and support in developing appropriate training courses, in accordance with the Council of Ministers' Resolution of 24 June 1971. In addition, there will be a continuing requirement for forecasting and evaluating the changing educational needs of people who will be employed in information work.

(1)

CODATA	:	Committee on Data for Science and Technology
EUSIDIC	:	European Association of Scientific Information Dissemination Centres
FID	:	Fédération Internationale de Documentation
ICSU-AB	:	International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board
IFLA	:	International Federation of Library Associations

2.4 Promotional activities

The promotion and the sale of specific services offered by a given service supplier will be the direct responsibility of that supplier. However, general information concerning EURONET will need to be assured by the CIDST and the Commission. Furthermore, support for promotional activities of the EURONET service suppliers is foreseen for:

- market research (e.g. following requests by service suppliers for identification of potential user groups in countries other than that where the service suppliers are located);
- joint activities with the PTTs (e.g. public relations, trade fairs, etc.);
- preparation of basic documents for promotion of the overall network (including brochures jointly prepared with the PTTs);
- market analysis (e.g. monitoring of EURONET share of overall market, analysis of overall trends);
- liaison with hosts on promotional activities (e.g. information on services for general brochures, start-up dates of new services, availability of demonstrations, etc.), especially during launch period.

Such activities will be carried out in close consultation with the parties concerned, notably service suppliers, CIDST, PTTs and data base suppliers.

2.5 Development of information systems and services, including sectoral activities

EURONET will provide a basic Community-wide mechanism for gaining on-line access to a large range of information. However, not all potential users will want to make direct use of the network themselves (for example, because of lack of familiarity with on-line services, financial constraints, etc.). An important

element therefore in a Community approach to assisting the user of scientific and technical information is to cater for support of users of both computerised and non-computerised information. A blend of such services is required, taking into account the wide range of users' needs and the types of services available. Small- and medium-size industry, for example, has a considerable need for scientific and technical information, but typically at the present time finds it convenient to work through intermediate services offering repackaging of information, rather than itself making direct access to on-line systems. Furthermore, the overall mix of facilities available to the user includes the key services of libraries, which in the context of EURONET will have the additional importance of being the primary source of hard-copy documentation. The basic aim of this part of the Plan of Action is therefore to encourage the development of a balanced mix of services to cater for the needs of the full spectrum of users.

In the area of non-computerised information, it is envisaged to promote cooperative action in such areas as:

- information analysis services
- repackaging of information
- information marketing services
- back-up documentary supply for EURONET services.

With regard to computerised information, it is planned:

- to promote cooperation in areas where apparent gaps exist or where there is a special interest of the Community (e.g. agriculture, the economics of energy);
- to provide for operation and updating of existing inventories of research projects and expertise, (e.g. AGREP, ENREP, ENDOC,

ENEX⁽¹⁾, and to make them available on-line via the network, where this is not ensured within the context of other Community programmes or by other institutions;

- to extend, in close collaboration with the appropriate CREST sub-committee, compilation of computerised inventories of research projects and expertise to other subject areas;
- to study the technical and economic factors affecting the feasibility of data banks ⁽²⁾ in relation to the benefits attainable for users. The results of such analyses would provide information for the planning, development and management of data banks throughout the Community.

Wherever possible, the data bases, including data banks, developed will be made available for access via EURONET. Where this is not possible or where users are not able to make direct use of EURONET, measures will be necessary to make the data

(1)

AGREP : Agricultural Research Projects
ENREP : Environmental Research Projects
ENDOC : Environmental Information / Documentation
Services / Centres
ENEX : Environmental Expertise

(2)

For the purposes of this paper, data banks are defined as data bases containing factual, i.e. primary, data, as distinct from bibliographic data bases which point via references and abstracts to full text information in journals and other documents.

available through other services offering intermediate enquiry facilities, information repackaging, etc., as indicated above.

2.6 Contributing to international information services

The increasing activities of the Community in ventures outside the Member States make increasingly urgent the definition and implementation of a Community information policy with regard to third countries. The Council of Ministers' Resolution of 24 June 1971 expressly stated that the Member States should harmonise their points of view with regard to third countries in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation. Among the international projects towards which a concerted attitude among Community Member States may need to be developed are: AGRIS, INIS, SPINES, DEVSIS, INPADOC, UNEP/IRS⁽¹⁾. Furthermore, the growing international nature of many information activities makes it increasingly important for the Community to play its full role in the relevant work of such organisations as UNESCO and OECD, and to collaborate with such

(1)

AGRIS	:	Agricultural Information System
INIS	:	International Nuclear Information System
SPINES	:	Science and Technology Policies Information Exchange System (UNESCO)
DEVSIS	:	Development Science Information System
INPADOC	:	International Patent Documentation Center
UNEP/IRS	:	United Nations Environmental Programme / International Referral System

establishments as the future European Patent Organisation, which is planned to commence operation in January 1978.

2.7. Commission's host computer for EURONET and related information systems(p.m.)

The institutions of the Community have a unique role to play in providing information services to EURONET users in a wide range of fields. Many valuable data bases, including data banks, have been created originally for in-house purposes and, where appropriate, it is planned to make these available to the general user who has paid for them through his taxes. Examples include information on import/export regulations at Community level, statistical data on industry, economics, social developments in the Community (such as those available through the CRONOS system) and Community legislation (CELEX).

Within the framework of the first Action Plan a dedicated computer has been installed for this purpose at the Luxembourg Computer Centre, which will provide a service to EURONET users throughout the Community, by offering access to such information services developed by the Communities' institutions and which represent a public interest. In accordance with the wish of the majority of delegates to the CIDST that the Commission itself respect the principles laid down for other host computers elsewhere in the present document, it is intended to continue this operation on the basis of complementary financing rather than within the present Action Plan. The matter is therefore treated here and in the accompanying budgetary plan pro memoria only.

Chapter 3 : Promotion of technology and methodology for improving
information services, with special emphasis on those of EURONET

The Council of Ministers' Resolution of 24 June 1971 stated that "the Member States shall coordinate their action regarding the encouragement of technological progress in the science and processing of documentation". Action in promoting technological progress in information services must be strictly geared to the needs of the user and therefore the components of this part of the Action Plan are all aimed at bringing about improved levels of service for the user. Important work in this regard is already underway, relating to the implementation of the telecommunications network, where close cooperation exists between the PTTs and the Community in such areas as standards for connection of host computers and terminals to EURONET. Other important technological areas for collaboration with the PTTs include the study of new uses for EURONET. The common command language represents a major opportunity for progress in information technology for the benefit of the user, as does that of promoting information exchange standards. The Community has a vital role to play in the general area of standardisation to ensure that solutions emerge which meet user needs. It is recognised that standardisation is a goal which must be approached gradually by voluntary cooperation between the Commission (advised by CIDST), the providers of services and equipment and the PTT administrations. Any recommendations of standards for EURONET will be made by the Commission and CIDST in close cooperation with relevant organisations such as ISO, UNISIST, EUSIDIC, IFLA, ICIREPAT⁽¹⁾ and

(1)

- ISO : International Standards Organisation
- UNISIST : United Nations International System for Information in Science and Technology
- ICIREPAT : International Cooperation in Information Retrieval and Examining Patent Offices

ICSU-AB, and provision must be made for dissemination of significant results. Furthermore, this chapter of the Plan of Action takes account of those aspects of multilingual system development which are related to IDST.

3.1 Standardisation of technical interfaces for EURONET host computers and terminals

The close cooperation between the PTT administrations and the Community in the implementation of EURONET means that the Community has an important role to play in the area of tele-informatics standards. The EURONET project was already a key factor in the development of the X25 interface and is the major influence in the work on the ESP (32) terminal protocol. Other standardisation work in this area in which the Community should cooperate where necessary with the PTTs in the light of EURONET interests is the development of higher level terminal protocols (notably screen-oriented terminals) and file transfer protocols. The primary motivation is that of gaining satisfactory standards from the point of view of the EURONET user, but such work has important implications too for the industrial sector.

3.2 Developing new IDST uses of EURONET

The network now being implemented is founded essentially on the need to provide greatly improved Community-wide access to existing information systems. However, it is believed that there are new and important categories of potential users, who would benefit considerably by the new facilities, for example in the area of computer to computer applications. Such additional users would assist the financial equilibrium of the network and this approach would be consistent with the aims of

the Community PTTs. It is therefore proposed to undertake systematic mapping of new applications for the network, in close cooperation with the PTTs and with qualified research centres in the member countries.

3.3 Common command language

Of special interest to EURONET users will be the possibility to access multiple information systems through a single network. Experience shows, however, that users find difficulty in changing from one interactive system to another. Within the framework of the first Action Plan, a study has shown that a common command language for on-line interrogation of data bases is feasible. A major opportunity now exists to assist users and, in conjunction with computer manufacturers, host computer operators to implement the proposed common command language within EURONET. This task will play a key role in helping the user make full use of different information services available to him through EURONET.

3.4 Standards for information exchange

The accelerated growth of information processing over the past two decades has led to an increasing need for the development of standards for a wide range of information handling activities, such as retrieval techniques, training abstracting, library services, etc. It is proposed to initiate steps to coordinate the development of such work at Community level, thereby promoting standardisation of methodologies and techniques and encouraging the diffusion of benefits to a Community-wide professional population. Among the specific areas in which such standardisation work can be encouraged under the Action Plan are bibliographic exchange standards, cataloguing, abstracting and indexing rules, and standard formats for data banks.

3.5 Pilot programmes in applying advanced information technology

From the continuous study of developments in information technology, specific programmes will be selected on a strict cost-benefit basis in relation to users' needs within the context of EURONET objectives to act as pilot projects for possible later wider application. This action is essential for the safeguarding of users' interests. The field would otherwise be left almost entirely to the manufacturers of equipment, with the consequent danger that user needs would be overlooked. For example, with regard to the impending new developments in facsimile transmission, the user's interest must prevail if the wide-ranging benefits of this technology are to be gained. In selecting specific areas for action, the normal processes of systems analysis will be applied, including monitoring and definition of requirements, feasibility study, detailed analysis, system definition and design, leading to implementation with regard to limited, defined objectives on a pilot scheme basis only. Among such possible projects would be:

- portable software packages for data banks
- applications of graphic terminals to scientific and technical information
- on-line input for updating data bases and data banks.

An important element in the approach to such topics would be recognition of the differing roles and interests of the user, the equipment manufacturer, the host operator and the data base supplier.

3.6 Information exchange on information technology

There is need to ensure that experiences gained with emerging information technology are shared rapidly with all the Member States. Information on developments in information technology will therefore be continuously channelled to all Member States and exchange of know-how between national centres in different Member States be promoted by:

- publishing and distributing Community documents in the field of information technology
- continuing to organise bi-annual congresses on the subject of information systems and networks (according to previous practice, the 4th and 5th Congresses will be due in 1979 and 1981 respectively)
- organising round-table discussions on both general and specialised topics in information technology in order to provide a platform for information exchange.

3.7. Multilingual tools for IDST

This topic was an integral part of the first Action Plan, but as the field of development has expanded into more general multilingual areas a separate programme has been established.

However, the CIDSST has expressed its wish to continue to be associated with IDST aspects of policies and applications in the multilingual field and provision for some specifically IDST - related work is therefore made within the context of this Plan of Action. Among the work foreseen is the compilation of multilingual vocabularies and thesauri in selected subject fields.

(MAU)

Budgetary Plan
for 2nd Plan of Action, 1978-80

		1978	1979	1980	TOTAL
<u>Chapter 1:</u> TURNING EURONET INTO A PUBLIC OPERATIONAL ON-LINE INFORMATION NETWORK		1.40	1.50	1.20	4.10
1.1	Starting operation of the telecommunication network	1.10			
1.2	Connection of host computers and terminals	0.15			
1.3-1.5	EURONET - related requirements	0.15			
<u>Chapter 2:</u> DEVELOPING A COMMON MARKET FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION		0.95	1.10	1.20	3.25
2.1-2.2	User needs and user support aspects	0.15			
2.3	Training users and specialists	0.05			
2.4	Promotional activities	0.20			
2.5-2.6	Information systems and services, including sectoral activities	0.55			
2.7	Commission's host computer for EURONET and related information systems	p.m.			
<u>Chapter 3:</u> PROMOTION OF TECHNOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION SERVICES		0.50	0.50	0.50	1.50
3.1-3.3	Technological development of EURONET services	0.25			
3.4-3.6	Information technology aspects	0.15			
3.7	Multilingual tools for IDST	0.10			
CONTINGENCY		0.15	-	-	0.15
<u>T O T A L</u>		3.00	3.10	2.90	9.00

OPINION OF CIDST ON SECOND PLAN OF ACTION FOR IDST, 7.4.1977
1978 - 1980

The Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST)

Having regard to the Council Resolutions of 24 June 1971 and 14 January 1974,
Taking account of the programmes developed and results achieved since the launching of the first Action Plan, 1975 - 1977, decided by the Council on 18 March 1975,

Taking account of the agreement with the PTT administrations of the nine Member States to implement and operate a telecommunications network for EURONET,

Taking account of the readiness of the Member States to link available information resources in EURONET to the network for Community-wide access, and of the desirability that the Commission does likewise.

Taking account of the large consensus of opinion reached by Member States on the policies and principles as expressed in Doc. CIDST/250/76 final for the sharing of information resources, as a means of contributing to economic, industrial and social progress in the Community,

Taking account of the extensive discussions at its 21st and 22nd meetings, including examination of Docs. CIDST/266/76 and CIDST/275/77 as well as its parts A and B,

- Considers it essential that a second Community Action Plan in the field of scientific and technical information to cover the years 1978 - 1980 is implemented, building on the results and actions initiated under the first Action Plan and supplementing them by new approaches as required;
- Considers that the highest priority should be attached to:
 - turning EURONET into an operational on-line scientific and technical information network, to be integrated as soon as possible into a European public data transmission network;

- . developing the information markets in the Community, with special consideration for the varied user needs and for support of the various categories of users;
- . promoting technology and methodology for improving information services, with special emphasis on those of EURONET;
- Stresses the need for efficient information systems and services (data bases, data banks and other information tools, including referral services) in order to provide the users in the Community with the information they require;
- Recommends to the Commission to propose a second Plan of Action along these lines to the Council immediately;
- Considers that the implementation of this 3 year Plan will require provision for expenditure of 9.0 MAU;
- Wishes to be associated with STI aspects of policies and applications in the multilingual field for which an amount of 300,000 AU is recommended under the Plan of Action;
- Decides to transmit the present opinion to the Commission of the European Communities as well as to the Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST).

(German proposal for rewording the last but one indent of CIDST's opinion)

- wishes to foresee an annual expenditure of 0,3 MAU for multilingual projects in the framework of the total expenditure of the 2nd Action Plan in order to overcome the linguistic barriers existing in the information and documentation field of the Community and considers it necessary that all projects relevant to IDST within the Plan of Action for the improvement of the transfer of information between European languages should be examined by CIDST if their incorporation into the 2nd Action Plan for IDST should no longer be possible.
In the case that a yearly expenditure of only 0,1 MAU is foreseen for multilingual projects within the 2nd Action Plan, the overall expenditure of 9 MAU should be reduced by 0,6 MAU.)

COMMENTS BY NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

Belgium: Pending effective rationalisation of the offer of information services via EURONET, the Belgian delegation reserves its position on CIDST's opinion on the 2nd Action Plan and the documents CIDST 275/77 + A + B describing this plan and the related budget. If such rationalisation is not achieved, the Belgian delegation considers it necessary to modify substantially the content and budget of the 2nd Action Plan.

Denmark: Approves fully the wording of CIDST's opinion.

France: In full agreement with the wording of CIDST's opinion, the French delegation maintains its reservations as to its request for the setting up of a new controlling mechanism (management committee) distinct from CIDST. This problem will be submitted to COREPER by the French authorities.

F.R. Germany: Approves in principle the 2nd Action Plan and CIDST's opinion. Proposes to say approximately 9 MAU and a new wording for the last but one indent.

Ireland: Approves in principle CIDST's opinion, but reserves its overall approval on the programme until satisfactory information on the telecommunications network is received.

Italy: Approves fully the wording of CIDST's opinion.

Luxembourg: Approves fully the wording of CIDST's opinion.

Netherlands: Approves fully the wording of CIDST's opinion.

U.K.: Accepts the need for a 2nd Action Plan, but reserves its position on the formal proposals until the assurances which it has sought in its opening statement on 23 March, 1977, have been given in writing. It also reserves its position on the 3 year budget, pending consultation with national authorities.

Furthermore, the U.K. delegation considers a total figure of about 2,8 MAU including the contingency fund and the amount for multilingual projects sufficient for the 1978 budget.

FINANCIAL SHEET

PART ONE

(Information to be provided for all projects:
existing and new) (1)

1. Identification of the sheet: legal and administrative data
 - 1.0. Number of the sheet (to be completed by D.G. XIX)
 - 1.1. Date of the sheet (version of
 - 1.2. Budget heading: chapter 36
 - 1.3. Financial years: 1978-1979-1980
 - 1.4. Legal basis
 - 1.4.0 Council Decision of, O J
 - 1.4.1 Commission Decision of
(if the Commission has sole power)
 - 1.4.2 Proposal forwarded to the Council on; O J
 - 1.4.3 Proposal forwarded to the Commission on: June 1977
 - 1.4.4 Proposal being drawn up by the departments, other
 - 1.5. Authorizing department: D.G. XIII
2. Title of the project: Second Community Plan of Action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation.

(1) 'Part two' of this sheet contains the additional data to be provided for new projects only.

3. Description of the project/persons concerned

3.0. Description

- a) conversion of EURONET into an on-line public information network
- b) development of a common market in scientific and technical information
- c) promotion of the technology and methodology required to improve information services, with special emphasis on those of EURONET.

3.1. Persons concerned

3.1.0 Category: Officials.

Beneficiaries: Community Institutions which are users of the scientific and technical information of Member States, industry, scientists, research workers, general public, administrations.

3.1.1 Number: 25 A, 13 B, 20 C plus a variable number (50 to 100) of experts and persons employed under contract.

3.1.2 Geographical location: Luxembourg and, in the case of the beneficiaries, all Member States.

4. Objectives of the project

- 4.0. General objective(s) laid down by the Treaties or by other decisions (if possible, preliminary quantification)

Coordination of the activities of Member States in the field of information and documentation in science and technology (IDST) and the establishment of a European network of IDST (Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council on 24 June 1971, and the Council decision of 18 March 1975 relating to the first Plan of Action in the field of scientific and technical information)

- 4.1. The more specific objective of the project and the contribution it makes towards the general objective: annual estimates at constant prices in million EUA: (1)

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
a) EURONET network	1.40	1.50	1.20
b) common market for IDST	0.95	1.10	1.20
c) methodology and technology	0.50	0.50	0.50

5. Justification of the project selected to attain the objective (2)

The first Plan of Action made it possible to define, and totally or partly attain, a certain number of firm objectives (especially the telecommunications network for EURONET, set up under contract by the 9 national PTTs) or new services (especially a certain number of sectoral information systems) whose development must be completed. It also made it possible to draw up a very precise programme for each of the projects to be undertaken in order to finalise the objectives of the second Plan, which is designed to give the public access to a complete Community tool.

-
- (1) The main aim is to establish a link between:
- an objective which is as precise as possible (year-by-year figures) and
 - the project selected (its contribution towards the general objective).
- Where several projects are directed towards the same general objective, an attempt should be made to specify the individual contribution of each project (problem which may have to be resolved with D.G. XIX)
- (2) If it is a new proposal, the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed project as compared with other possible means of action should be assessed. In the case of the continuation of a project, consideration should be given as to the value of pursuing the activity in its present form.

6. Expenditure

6.0. Overall expenditure for the project for the whole of its expected duration

6.0.0 Expenditure chargeable to the Community budget
For 1978-1980: (i.e. total expenditure)
9 million EUA at constant prices, that is 10.392 million EUA at current prices.

6.0.1 Expenditure chargeable to national budgets
Nil.

6.0.2 Expenditure chargeable to other sectors at national level
Nil.

6.1. Appropriations authorized, commitments and payments

6.1.0 Commitments (Commitment appropriations) (1)
See 6.1.1

	Previous financial years (commitments undertaken)	Current financial year (appropriations authorized)		Subsequent financial years (estimates of commitments)		
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Amounts						
New project	1.840	2.15	2.65	4.8	2.8	2.792
Previous project	0.484					
Total	2.324					
Rate of increase						

6.1.1 Payments (payment appropriations) (1)

	Previous financial years (payments made)	Current financial year (appropriations authorized)	Subsequent financial years (estimates of payments)		
			1978	1979	1980
Amounts					
			2.85	4.85	2.692
Rate of increase					

(1) At the present time, the budget generally contains appropriations of an annual nature. Commitments appropriations (or commitment authorizations) and payment appropriations only apply in the fields of Euratom, the Regional Fund and the Social Fund.

6.2. Size of appropriations requested: appropriations requested as a percentage of the total appropriations for 1975 (to be completed by D.G. XIX).

6.3. Explanation of overall cost and appropriations requested

6.3.0 Method of calculation

The figures quoted are the result of feasibility studies and consultations with experts from the Member States, in particular those of CIDST.

6.3.1 Details of any connection between the cost and basic hypotheses regarding the general economic situation

Expenditure relating to the various aspects of the project has been calculated on the basis of prices at the end of 1976 and their costs adjusted as a function of the planned timetable for payment and the basic hypotheses of the Commission for the estimation of costs in future years.

6.3.2 Main factors of uncertainty

6.3.2.0 Uncertainty of the estimates because of prices, production risks,
indication of the bracket for 1975/1976/1977

Nil

6.3.2.1 Uncertainty with regard to the application procedures
(different rates of Community participation, etc)

Nil

6.3.2.2 Other

Technological progress (computer, telecommunications, etc) could affect the cost of the project to some extent.

6.4. Timetable (projected rate of payment during the 1978 financial year) if possible

<u>1st quarter</u>	<u>2nd quarter</u>	<u>3rd quarter</u>
500,000	750,000	1,600,000

(Progression due to the need to negotiate contracts).

PART TWO

(Additional data for a new project) (1)

9. Information regarding staffing and the appropriations for administrative expenditure necessary for the implementation of the project

(For the expected duration of the project and at least for the current financial year and three subsequent years)

9.0. Staff and appropriations required

9.0.0 Total number (and grade) of staff required for the project

25 A, 13 B and 20 C

9.0.1 Number of additional staff which might prove necessary
(number and grade; purpose to be stated)

16 A, 9 B and 14 C for marketing and the complex management of the EURONET network and for the development and installation of new information systems to be incorporated into EURONET.

9.0.2 Appropriations for staff (Title 1)

(to be established by DGs IX and XIX).

(1) The Commission decision of 28 November 1973 on new guidelines on budgetary matters refers to the need to establish a 'financial memorandum' made up of the two parts of the financial sheet, for any new project.

OPINION

of the Scientific and Technical
Research Committee (CREST)
on the proposal for a Council Decision
adopting a second three-year
plan of action in the field of
information and documentation in science and
technology

The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) examined the above proposal at its meetings on 6 and 7 October and 7 and 8 November 1977 and adopted the following opinion:

1. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONTENT OF THE PROPOSALS AND GENERAL COMMENTS

The Committee notes with satisfaction the results achieved since the implementation of the first plan of action in the field of IDST (1975-1977) adopted by the Council on 18 March 1975.

In view of the need to share the substantial information resources existing in the Member States of the Community, CREST stresses the urgency of turning EURONET into a public operational information network giving users on-line access to IDST and destined to be integrated as soon as possible into a European public data-transmission network.

However, it recommends the Commission and the CIDST to persevere in their efforts to rationalize the information services offered via EURONET while ensuring free and fair competition within the Community as regards the provision of services in accordance with the guidelines established by CREST [see CREST/250/76, paragraphs 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4], and in accordance with the Council Resolution

of 24 June 1971 which states that: "the Member States shall co-ordinate their action regarding 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 ...". The Committee asks the CIDST to submit, within five months, a first report on the results of the efforts undertaken towards rationalization.

The Committee is satisfied with the scientific and technical content and with the priorities adopted in the Commission proposals which it considers to be of interest to the Community.

2. FUNDS

The Committee considers that the budget allocation for implementation of the second plan of action should be fixed by decision of the Council at a ceiling of 9 MUA for a period of three years, 3 MUA of which would be for 1978 [see text of the proposal for a Council Decision annexed hereto].

3. IMPLEMENTING DETAILS

The Committee considers that in implementing the second plan of action, particular attention should be paid to the administration of the plan, and that a fundamental role should be played by CIDST.

The Committee approves the objective of converting EURONET into a public data-transmission network. However, it considers that the Community should be in a position to control the operation and development of the network during the initial stages. The Community should, in particular, ensure that:

- Community investments granted should primarily be for the benefit of IDST users;
- the transmission of communications on EURONET for third parties does not interfere with the use and development of the network for IDST requirements which should continue to have priority.

The Committee also recommends that the CIDST duties should be defined as indicated in Annex 2 to the proposal for a Decision.

The Committee asks the Commission to propose, as quickly as possible and after consultation of the CIDST, appropriate management machinery for EURONET and to report to the CREST.

4. LINKS WITH THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

[R/49/77]

The Committee, in view of the links between the second plan of action on IDST and the action plan for the transfer of information between European languages, recommends that the Commission ensure co-ordination between the two action plans in consultation with CIDST and CETIL (Committee of Experts for the Transfer of Information between Community Languages).
