

## U.S.-E.C. CONSULTATIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The United States (U.S.) - European Community (E.C.) Joint Consultative Group on Science and Technology at its first meeting, held February 25, 1991, in Washington, D.C., agreed to investigate further possible collaborative activities in the field of energy and environment; regularly exchange information on respective science and technology collaborative activities with Central and Eastern Europe; conduct consultations in preparation for discussions on megaprojects at the spring 1992 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Ministerial on Science and Technology; enhance information exchanges on human resources, workforce data and the prospect of increased exchanges of young scientists; continue the efforts of the Task Force on Biotechnology; and continue the activities initiated last summer on information technologies.

The new Joint Consultative Group is co-chaired by Dr. D. Allan Bromley, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology, and E.C. Commission Vice President Filippo-Maria Pandolfi. It was established in November 1990 to initiate regular high-level consultations on science and technology issues, to enhance information exchange and facilitate cooperation in all aspects of science and technology. Dr. Bromley and Vice President Pandolfi have agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Group will be held in Brussels in autumn 1991.

The February 25 meeting provided a general overview of U.S. and E.C. science policy issues and priorities and an opportunity to review ongoing U.S.-E.C. cooperative research and development (R&D) activities. Topics discussed included: R&D priorities in energy and environment, the status and role of science and technology in Central and Eastern Europe, large-scale science projects, and workforce requirements for scientist and engineers. In addition, reports were presented on the U.S.-E.C. Biotechnology Task Force and the U.S.-E.C. workshops on information technologies.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction that the talks had strengthened personal contacts between U.S. and E.C. policymakers, clarified both sides' priorities and perspectives in international science and technology issues, and helped identify potentially fruitful areas for increased bilateral cooperation.

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