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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT

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NEWS

- Each of the three STOA Workshops which took place in the period mid-January to mid-February attracted 80 or more participants. The subjects have been: 'Internet and Human Rights', 'Ionising Radiation' and 'European Environmental Coast Guard'. The purpose of the Workshops was to generate ideas for the forthcoming studies on these projects (available in 1-2 months from now). Three more Workshops are currently planned: 'Drug Use', 'Learning to live in the information society as a an older person', and 'Aquaculture'. Further details on pages 5-6.
- Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN, MEP, will make a presentation on the results of the Workshop on the 'European Environmental Coast Guard' at the meeting of the Committee on Transport and Tourism on 24-25 February 1998 in Brussels.
- Prof. Jean-Louis ARMAND, STOA's Chief Adviser on Quality Control, will give the presentation of his Final Report on 'Advice on the quality control of technology assessment reports' at the STOA Panel meeting of 19 February 1998 in Strasbourg.
- Dr Steve WRIGHT of the Omega Foundation, Manchester, UK, gave a presentation of his study on 'An appraisal of technologies of political control' to the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs at its meeting of 27 January 1998 in Brussels.
- Restricted Calls for Tenders are beginning to be issued for the projects on Workplan 1998. There is a permanent Call for Expressions of Interest addressed to all research organisations and researchers interested in competing for contracts with STOA. Simply send an e-mail to the STOA Unit in Luxembourg with about two pages of relevant information in the body of the message. Further details in STOA's web pages.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, STUDIES, PAPERS, BRIEFS

Workplan 1997

- The use of the Internet for the EP's activities for the promotion and protection of human rights**, by Mr Edward F. HALPIN and Mrs Shelagh FISHER, Centre for Research in Library and Information Management (CERLIM), University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK
Workshop Briefing Note and Programme (Workshop of 27 January 1998, Brussels), Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C01/1, EN, January 1997, PE 167.227/Brf.Note

The use of the Internet for the EP's activities to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, by Ms Sonja MEHLBAUM, STOA Scholar
Background Information Brief, Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C01/1, EN, January 1998, PE 167.227/Work.doc

- Appropriate energy storage technologies for the use with distributed, stochastic energy sources**, by Dr Murray CAMERON, WIP, München, Germany
Draft Final Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel 1997, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05/2, EN, February 1998, PE 167.059/Drft.Fin.
- The operational requirements of a commercial fusion reactor**, by Mr Michael SHARPE, ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd., Birmingham, UK
Final Report/Revised, Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05/3, EN, December 1997, PE 166.793/Final/rev. The French and German translations of the Options Brief are also available.
- Survey and evaluation of criticism of basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation**, by Prof. P.A. ASSIMAKOPOULOS, The University of Ioannina, Greece
Workshop Paper (Workshop of 5 February 1998, Brussels), Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05/6, EN, February 1997, PE 167.161
Basic concepts in ionising radiation, by Ms Bettina SMYKATZ-KLOSS, Visiting STOA Researcher
Background Information Brief, Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05/6, EN, February 1998, PE 167.161/Inf.Brif
- General influence of speed limiters on traffic flow, road safety, users and other aspects**, by Mrs Leire BARRIUSO, ASTECO Expertos en Temas Europeos, Bilbao, Spain
Interim Study, Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C10/1, EN, January 1998, PE 167.147/Int.St.
- Virtual libraries and education: a prospective technology assessment**, by Mr Eric SUTTER, Bureau Van Dijk, Paris, France
Draft Final Report + Annex, Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C12/1, FR, February 1998, PE 167.117/Proj.Rap.Fin + 167.117/Ann.
- Aquaculture: deployment of an open-sea marine park with self-restocking by behaviourally conditioned fish with the objective of exploitation by traditional fishing methods**, by Mr John BOSTOCK, Stirling Institute of Aquaculture, Scotland
Scoping Meeting Report, Working Document for the STOA Panel 1997, Workplan 1997 - 97/C17/2, EN, February 1998, PE 167.198/Scop.Rep.

Workplan 1996

- Advice on the quality management of technology assessment reports**, by Prof. Jean-Louis ARMAND, University of Aix-Marseille, France
Draft Final Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel, EN, February 1998, PE 166.638/Fin.St.

Workplan 1994

- European environmental coast guard**, by Mr Graham J. CLARKE, IMC Associates, Hampshire, UK
Workshop Paper (Workshop of 9-10 February 1998, Brussels), Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1994, EN, February 1997, PE 167.162

Several translations of Options Briefs of previous studies are also available.

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

The following Project Steering Groups (PSG) will be holding scoping meetings:

- 97/C05-C15/1 - Transparency and openness in scientific advisory committees.** A scoping meeting with Mrs McNALLY, author of the project, and Dr STEIN of PREST, UK, which was originally foreseen for 21 January 1998, is planned to be held on 3 March, at 15.00, in Brussels (LEO 1-E-3).

The following Project Steering Groups (PSG) have held scoping meetings in the past month:

Workplan 1998

- 98/C02/01 - Consequences of climate change for agricultural production + 98/C11/01 - Sustainable use of pesticides**

Date/place: 28 January 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mr PEGAZZANO, DGII/Environment Committee secretariat; Mr KRAUS, DGIV/Environment Division; Mr VAN DER PERRE, Head of Division, DGIV/B; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA; Mr COTTIS, STOA Scholar; Mr RESTIVO, STOA Scholar.

Main outcomes: Agreement on project scope and timing. In the meantime, the restricted calls for tenders for these 2 projects have been sent out.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- 98/C05/02 - Comparative study into coalmining technology**

Date/place: 28 January 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mr ADAM, MEP; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA.

Main outcomes: Agreement on project scope and timing.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

98/C05/03 - Building regulations

Date/place: 28 January 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs ROTHE, MEP; Mrs AHERN, MEP; Mr HEALY, Green Group; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA.

Main outcomes: Agreement on project scope and timing.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

98/C09/01 - Selection of indicators for evaluation of programmes of regional assistance in the EU

Date/place: 3 February 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs SCHROEDTER, MEP; Mr HOWITT, MEP; Mr BUTTERS, Assistant to Mrs McCarthy; Mrs OLLIKAINEN, DGII/Regional Committee secretariat; Mr SOLERA, Green Group; Mr SOSA, STOA; Mrs DUBROCARD, STOA Scholar; Mr ORTEGA, STOA Scholar.

Main outcomes: Agreement on project scope and timing.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

98/C13/01 - SMEs, technology and development

Date/place: 10 February 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mr SPECIALE, MEP; Mrs JUAREZ BOAL, DGII/Research Committee secretariat; Mrs SAARVARANTA, DGII/Research Committee secretariat; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA; Mrs DUBROCARD, STOA Scholar; Mr RUESS, STOA Scholar.

Main outcomes: Agreement on project scope and timing.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

Workplan 1997

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT YEARBOOK

Date/place: 29 January 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs MALAKASI, contractor (Integrated Environmental Management - IEM, Greece); Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the execution of the study by the contractor was discussed. A Scoping Paper has been delivered.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

Workplan 1996

- 96/ALP1(+)** - Strategic options for the evaluation of R&D programmes of the EU

Date/place: 29 January 1998, Brussels

Participants included: Mr GUY and Mr ARNOLD, contractors (Technopolis, UK); Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the execution of the study by the contractor was discussed. A Scoping Paper has been delivered.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

WORKSHOPS

The following STOA Workshops took place:

- 97/C01/1** - The use of Internet for the promotion of human rights

Date/place: 27 January 1998, Brussels

Main outcomes: Experts speakers from human right organisations including Mrs Patti WHALEY, Deputy Secretary-General of Amnesty International, and Mr Eric SOTTAS, Director of 'Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture' discussed their use of the Internet and World Wide Web. Interesting insights were gained for the EP's Subcommittee on Human Rights into ways of optimising the use of the new media. The Workshop, chaired by Mrs LENZ, MEP, was organised in cooperation with Mr Edward HALPIN of the Centre for Research in Library and Information Management (CERLIM), at the University of Central Lancashire, UK. A Workshop Study is expected to be available in 1-2 months.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- 97/C05/6** - Survey and evaluation of criticisms of basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation

Date/place: 5 February 1998, Brussels

Main outcomes: A wide and balanced range of speakers discussed different aspects of the issue of low-dose radiation. They included experts from the International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP) and the European Commission. The Workshop, co-chaired by Mrs AHERN, Mr LANNOYE and Mr TRAKATELLIS, MEPs, was organised in cooperation with Prof. ASSIMAKOPOULOS and his team of the University of Ioannina, Greece. A Workshop Study is expected to be available in 1-2 months.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

95/ENVI/SP/2 - European Environmental Coastguard

Date/place: 9-10 February 1998, Brussels

Main outcomes: Leading maritime experts from the EU, Canada, Norway and the Isle of Man discussed ways of monitoring Europe's coasts to guard against pollution damage. The Workshop, chaired by Mrs LANGENHAGEN, MEP, was organised in cooperation with Mr Graham J. CLARKE of IMC Associates, Lymington, UK. A Workshop Study is expected to be available in 1-2 months.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH

The following STOA Workshops are in preparation:

97/C12/3 - Drug use: scientific and technological policy options

This Workshop was planned to take place on Monday, 2 March 1998 (PM) and Tuesday, 3 March 1998 (AM) in Brussels but had to be postponed to an ulterior date because of a simultaneous conference on a similar subject in Lisbon. The new date will follow in one of the next issues of the Newsletter. The contractor for the organisation of this Workshop is the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna.

97/C12/2 - Learning to live in the information society as an older person

The Workshop is planned to take place on Monday, 23 March 1998 (PM) and Tuesday, 24 March 1998 (AM) in Brussels (Room to be defined). The contractor for the organisation of this Workshop is Teleport Sachsen-Anhalt, Brussels.

97/C17/2 - Aquaculture: Deployment of an open-sea marine park

The Workshop is provisionally planned to take place on 27-28 April 1998. The contractor for the organisation of this Workshop is the Stirling Institute for Aquaculture, UK.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is sad to announce that Ms Karine LIGNON, who worked on the two 1997 projects for the Committee on Fisheries, has left the Team. She has gone back to continuing her doctoral thesis. We wish her all the best for the future.

Please address your requests for any of the documents listed above to Mr Frans SCHAERLAEKEN by fax (for details see list at the end).

STOA Workplan 1998: Summary of projects

<i>Committee project n°</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Project title</i>
0201	Agriculture	Consequences of climate change for agricultural production
0401	EMAC	State of play of the interstate customs computer network
0501	CERT	Ethical issues in European research and technology
0502		Comparative study into coalmining technology and costs between the EU (including countries of C. and E. Europe) and major competitors in USA, Australia, S. Africa
0503		Building regulations as a means of requiring energy saving and use of renewable energies: current status and future potential at Member State and EU level
0504		A nuclear amplifier for energy for electricity production
0505		Bio-informatics: a technology assessment of recent developments in bio-informatics and related areas of research and development including high-throughput screening and combinatorial chemistry
0801	ASOC	Technology-induced atypical work-forms: Existing and proposed regulatory strategies concerning social agents (state, employers, trade unions) dealing with technologically-induced a-typical forms of work (tele-work, stand-by work, 24-hour-office-operation)
0901	Regional	The selection of indicators for the evaluation of programmes of regional assistance in the European Union: Classification of criteria for an empirical assessment principally based on research and development, technological innovation and technology transfer indicators
1001	Transport	Revitalising railways: Examples of failures and successes in the revitalisation of railways outside the European Union
1101	Environment	Sustainable use of pesticides
1102		Biodiversity strategy
1103		Orphan drugs
1201	Culture	Cultural diversity in the new media
1301	Development	SMEs, technology and development
1302		New options for renewable energy sources, including solar power, in the developing world
1401	Civil liberties	Appraisal of technologies of political control
1402		Use of modern technology for the purpose of setting up a European juridical network
1701	Fisheries	The problem of discards in fisheries
1801	Rules	Ways to facilitate the EP's work by the use of new technologies

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ONLY THE MEMBERS NAMED ABOVE HAVE THE **RIGHT TO VOTE** AT THE
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