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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT
STOA

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NEWS

- STOA was launched ten years ago this month. Originally a pilot project under the responsibility of the then Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, its mandate was widened by the Bureau of the European Parliament in September 1989 to be at the service of all Parliament's Committees. The founding Chairman was Mr Rolf LINKOHR. He was succeeded in 1994 by Mr Alain POMPIDOU. The 10th anniversary will be marked by the STOA Panel at its meeting on 10 April.
- Mr Guido PODESTÀ (IT, UPE), Vice-President of the European Parliament and Member of the Committee on Budgets, is the new contact person between the Bureau and STOA, taking over from Mr GUTIERREZ DIAZ to whom we wish to express our thanks.
- STOA is about to launch its new Call for Expressions of Interest. It will be published in one of the next editions of the Official Journal and will appear on STOA's home page and on CORDIS. The full text will appear in next month's Newsletter. There will be no deadline.
- The STOA Workplan 1997 was adopted at an extraordinary Panel meeting in Brussels on 8 January 1997; ancillary decisions were taken at the meeting of 20 February. A summary can be found on pages 5-6.
- Almost all Committee Chairmen have now nominated their Members and Substitute Members for the STOA Panel. The new list can be found on page 7. The election of the new Bureau is foreseen for the Panel meeting of 13 March.
- The next EPTA Council meeting will take place in Copenhagen on 25-26 September. It will be prepared by a Directors' meeting in Helsinki on 10 April.
- The STOA contractor, Prof. Jaume VALLS PASOLA of the University of Girona, Spain, presented the 1996 project on 'Technological innovation and money' to the Subcommittee on Monetary Affairs on Tuesday, 25 February in Brussels.
- There will be a presentation of the project on 'Fertility Awareness and Contraception' (Workplan 1995), originally foreseen for the meeting on 24-25 February, to the Committee on Women's Rights at its meeting on 20 March in Brussels.
- Mrs Eryl McNALLY organised a meeting on 'Forging Framework Five: The future of EU research & Development' on 25 February in Brussels. Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, Head of Unit, attended.
- Mr Gordon ADAM spoke at the European Commission's Conference on the Fifth Framework Programme for Research and Development, organised by DGXII, on 28 February - 1 March at Centre Borschette in Brussels. This was also attended by Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, PAPERS, BRIEFS

Work in Progress - The following Working documents are being presented to the STOA Panel in March:

Workplan 1996

- 'Advice on the quality control of technology assessment reports'**, Interim Report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Prof. Jean-Louis ARMAND, Senior Adviser on Quality Control, University of Aix-Marseille.
- 'The socio-economic impact of coastal erosion on the development of coastal and insular regions of the EU'**, Working documents for the STOA Panel:
 - . Case-study 1: the Cyclades, by Mr Georges KALLIS, ERN, Greece;
 - . Case-study 2: the Gulf of Catania, by Dr Sandro PRIVITERA, University of Catania, Italy (with Annex: Pictures);
 - . Case-study 3: the island of Sylt, Northern Frisia, by Dr W. Eberhard FALCK, Germany
 - . Case-study 4: Rosslare and Courtown, by Mr Brendon DOLLARD, Forbairt, Ireland.
- 'Feasibility of censoring and jamming pornography and racism in informatics'**, Interim report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Mr A.A. PITMAN of Smith System Engineering, UK.
- 'Marine macroalgae and their uses'**, Working document for the STOA Panel, in English and German, by Dr Anna Maria MÜLLER, former Robert Schuman Scholar in the STOA Unit.

Workplan 1995

- 'Assessment of remedial and preventive measures relating to the damage caused to European monuments by pollution'**, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Prof. Dr. C. SAIZ JIMENEZ, Sevilla, Spain.
- 'The technology component in health care costs: A concise review of the literature'**, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Dr G.M. BOAS, MERIT, University of Limburg, Maastricht, the Netherlands.

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

The following Project Steering Group (PSG) is holding a meeting:

- **97/C12/1-2-3 - Virtual libraries and education / Learning to live in the information society as an older person / Drug use: scientific and technological options assessment.**
A PSG meeting for these three projects will be held on Wednesday, 12 March, at 10 am, in Strasbourg. It will be attended by Mrs Renate HEINISCH, Mr Enrico BOARETTO, Head of Division, Secretariat of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media, and Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, STOA.

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

1997 Workplan

- **97/C05/2 - Appropriate energy storage technologies for the use with distributed, stochastic energy sources**

Date/place: 19 February 1997, Strasbourg

Participants included: Mr ARGYROS, MEP; Ms Pari, Assistant to Mr Argyros; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Ms SMYKATZ-KLOSS, STOA Unit.

Main outcomes of the scoping meeting: Agreement on project scope and timing.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- **97/C05/5 - Prospects for the application of superconductivity in the storage and transport of electricity**

Date/place: 19 February 1997, Strasbourg

Participants included: Mr MALERBA, MEP; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Ms SMYKATZ-KLOSS, STOA Unit.

Main outcomes of the scoping meeting: Agreement on project scope and timing.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- **97/C11/1 - An appraisal of the working in practice of Directive 90/220/EEC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms**

Date/place: 27 February 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mr BOWE, MEP; Mr WILKINSON, Assistant to Mr Bowe; Mr WARLEY, Assistant to Mr Collins; Mr HANSEN, DGII/Research secretariat; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Ms WILLIS, DGIV stagiaire.

Main outcomes of the scoping meeting: Agreement on project scope and timing.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- A Conference on **WOMEN IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY** is being organised by the 'Beratungs- und Informationsstelle Forschungsförderung (BIF)' of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. It will be held on 17 March 1997 in the Mediapark in Köln. Mrs Erika MANN, MEP, Member of the Committee on External Economic Relations, will be a key speaker.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is sad to announce that Mr Didier FERLIN, Robert Schuman Scholar, who worked on the 1996 projects on 'Emissions by motor vehicles' and 'Coastal erosion', left the Team at the end of February. We wish him 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 1997 - SUMMARY

adopted on 8 January 1997, including ancillary decisions taken on 20 February 1997

C1 Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy

- 97/C01/1** 'Disarmament Treaty surveillance' proposal: under consideration by the STOA Panel (see below*)]
- 97/C01/2** The use of the Internet in the European Parliament's activities for the promotion and protection of human rights - **WORKSHOP**

C5 Committee on Research, Technical Development and Energy

- 97/C05-C15/1** Transparency and openness in scientific and advisory committees -the American and Japanese experience - **STUDY** [also requested by the Committee on Institutional Affairs]
- 97/C05/2** Appropriate energy storage technologies for the use with distributed, stochastic energy sources - **STUDY**
- 97/C05/3** Operational requirements of a commercial fusion reactor - **WORKSHOP**
- 97/C05/4** Sequencing the human genome: scientific progress, economic, ethical and social aspects - **STUDY**
- 97/C05/5** Prospects for the application of superconductivity in the storage and transport of electricity - **STUDY**
- 97/C05/6** Survey and evaluation of criticism of basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation - **WORKSHOP**

C6 Committee on External Economic Relations

- 97/C06/1** Electronic commerce and the technological perspectives of secure telecommunications - **STUDY**

C9 Committee on Regional Policy

- 97/C09/1** Scientific and technological assessment of the consequences of the information society for the development of the least-favoured regions - **WORKSHOP**
- 97/C09/2** Fifth Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development: A scientific and technological assessment of its contribution to economic and social cohesion (Article 130B) and of options for promoting this contribution - **STUDY**

C10 Committee on Transport and Tourism

- 97/C10/1** General influence of speed limiters on the traffic flow, road safety, users and other aspects - **STUDY**

C11 Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

- 97/C11/1** Deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) - **STUDY**

C12 Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and Media

- 97/C12/1 **Virtual libraries and education: A prospective technology assessment of the impact of on-line virtual libraries on education in European schools and universities - STUDY**
- 97/C12/2 **Learning to live in the information society as an older person: Educating older people to use information, communications and mobility technologies to enhance their participation in the European information society - obstacles and opportunities - STUDY**
- 97/C12/3 **Drug use: Scientific and technological contributions to the assessment of policy options on drug use and related treatments, from the level of individual treatment to the national and European policy level - WORKSHOP**

C15 Committee on Institutional Affairs

- 97/C5-C15/1 **Transparency and openness in scientific and advisory committees - the American and Japanese experience - STUDY [also requested by the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Research]**

C17 Committee on Fisheries

- 97/17/1 **Synergy between the ecology of the sea and the economy of the land - STUDY**
- 97/17/2 **Aquaculture: deployment of an open-sea marine park with self-restocking by behaviourally conditioned fish with the objective of exploitation by traditional fishing methods - WORKSHOP**

****Decision expected by 13 March 1997***

C1 Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy

- 97/C01/1 **The use of modern technologies for verifying disarmament treaties - STUDY**

STOA PANEL

[Situation as of 12 March 1997, with vote on the Bureau at the Panel meeting of 13.03.97]

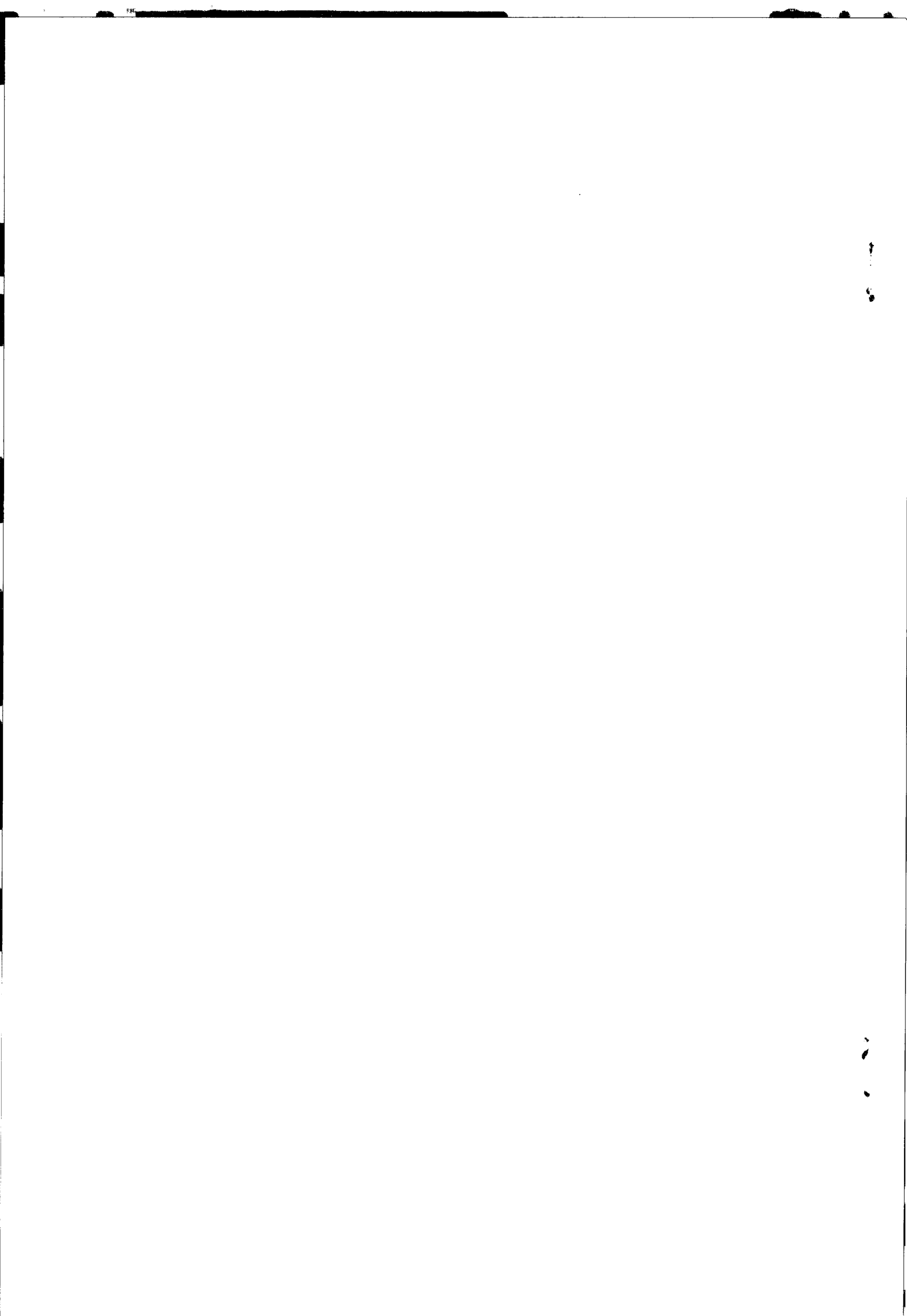
MEMBERS

Mr Leo TINDEMANS	(B, PPE)	Foreign affairs, Security
Mr Lutz GOEPEL	(D, PPE)	Agriculture
Mr Tommy WAIDELICH	(SV, PSE)	Budgets
Mr Fernand HERMAN	(B, PPE)	Economic and monetary affairs
Mr Alain POMPIDOU	(F, UPE)	Research/Energy
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Mr Hervé FABRE-AUBRESPY	(F, EDN)	Legal affairs
Mr Nikolaos PAPAKYRIAZIS	(GR, PSE)	Social affairs and Employment
Mr Antoni GUTIERREZ DIAZ	(E, GUE)	Regional policy
Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN	(D, PPE)	Transport and Tourism
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Mrs Renate HEINISCH	(D, PPE)	Culture
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Mr Andrea MANZELLA	(I, PSE)	Institutional affairs
Mrs Edith MÜLLER	(D, V)	Budgetary control
Mr Gordon ADAM	(UK, PSE)	Fisheries
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Mrs Eryl McNALLY	(UK, PSE)	Women's Rights
.....	(.....,	Petitions

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Mr James PROVAN	(UK, PPE)	Fisheries
Mr Florus WIJSENBEEK	(NL, PPE)	Rules of procedure

ONLY THE MEMBERS NAMED ABOVE HAVE THE **RIGHT TO VOTE** AT THE
STOA PANEL MEETINGS.



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