

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT

STOA

STOA

NEWSLETTER

10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Scientific and Technological Options
Assessment at the European
Parliament 1987 to 1997

April 1997

Directorate General for Research

PE 166.489

DE

GR

EN

ES

FR

IT

NL

PT

Cataloguing data:

Title: STOA Newsletter

Publisher: European Parliament
Directorate General for Research
Directorate B
STOA

Editors: Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, Head of STOA Unit
Editorial assistant, Ms Karin SERCU

Date: April 1997

PE number: PE 166.489

This document is a working Document for the 'STOA Panel'. Its contents have not been refereed, and it is not an official publication of STOA.

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STOA CELEBRATES ITS 10th ANNIVERSARY

STOA: THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

A message from the Chairman of the STOA Panel to mark the 10th anniversary of the launch of STOA in 1987

The European Parliament can be proud to have been among the first parliaments to see the need for a Technology Assessment unit to help it confront the policy options emerging in a world where science and technology have had such a major impact. The fact that STOA is now celebrating its 10th anniversary is at once an achievement and also a pledge for the future. As Chairman, I am committed to ensuring that STOA will play an ever more effective role in assisting the Committees of the European Parliament to assess the scientific and technological policy options which it is their task to scrutinise. I offer my warm thanks to present and past Members of the STOA Panel and to the personnel of the STOA unit in the Directorate-General for Research for their contribution over the past 10 years, as well as to all those, inside and outside our Institution, who have given their precious support. I am especially grateful for the good cooperation which STOA has enjoyed with its partners in the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network, EPTA.

Alain POMPIDOU

NEWS

- At its meeting of 13 March the STOA Panel voted its new Bureau : the Chairman will continue to be Mr POMPIDOU, Vice-chairpersons will be Mrs Renate HEINISCH and Mr David BOWE. The full list can be found on page 9.
- STOA has now launched its new Call for Expressions of Interest. It was published in Official Journal S 58 on 22 March. The full text can be found on page 6. It is also available on CORDIS, Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) and in all EU languages on STOA's own web page.
- STOA is represented by Mr Ismael OLIVARES MARTINEZ, Director, DGIV/B, at the Directors' meeting of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network (EPTA) in Helsinki on 10 April. The meeting will prepare the annual Conference and Council Meeting, which are to be held in Copenhagen on 25-26 September.
- A new 10th Anniversary edition of the publications list of STOA's reports is available.
- Mrs Caroline RAY, former STOA Scholar, and Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit, presented the project on 'Fertility Awareness and Contraception' (Workplan 1995) to the Committee on Women's Rights at its meeting on 20 March in Brussels.
- The STOA report on 'The development and application of new information technologies in the next decade' (Workplan 1996) by SPRU was made available at the meeting of the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy of 17 March in Brussels.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, PAPERS, BRIEFS

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

Workplan 1996

- **Electronic data management as a tool for the evaluation of expenditures by the EU (ALP1)**, Interim Report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Ing. Maurizio PEDRELLI of PRAGMATA, Italy (PE 166.674).
- **The Internet: nature, scope and extent of use - A concise literature review (ALP2)**, Final Report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Dr Jean-Marc LEVY, Strasbourg (in French) (Executive Summary in English) (PE 166.745).

- **The evolution of international markets in telecommunications (ALP2(ii))**, Interim Report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Mr Neil McNAUGHTON, The Data Room, France (PE 166.747).
- **The application of multimedia technologies in school: their use, effect and implications (ALP2(iii))**, Interim Reports, Working documents for the STOA Panel:
 - . Scientific approaches to new learning models for new learning environment (02), by Prof. Stella VOSNIADOU of the University of Athens (PE 166.749);
 - . The transition from primary to secondary schools (03), by Mr Peter BATES, pjb Associates, UK (PE 166.701)
- **The technological feasibility of trans-European hydro-networks (BP1)**, Interim Report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Mr Yannis VASSILAKIS, ANETEC, Brussels - in French (PE 166.679)
- **Reducing emissions by cars and other motor vehicles (CP1)**, Draft Final Report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by IEM Ltd., Greece (PE 166.746)
- **The socio-economic impact of coastal erosion on the development of coastal and insular regions of the EU (DLP1)**, Final reports, Working documents for the STOA Panel:
 - . Case-study 1: the Cyclades, by Mr Georges KALLIS, ERN, Greece (PE 166.663);
 - . Case-study 2: the Gulf of Catania, by Dr Sandro PRIVITERA, University of Catania, Italy (with Annex: Pictures) (PE 166.654 + annex 1);
 - . Case-study 3: the island of Sylt, Northern Frisia, by Dr W. Eberhard FALCK, Germany (PE 166.655);
 - . Case-study 4: Rosslare and Courtown, by Mr Brendon DOLLARD, Forbairt, Ireland (PE 166.664).
- **Assessment of dual technologies in the context of European security and defence (GP1)**, Scoping Paper, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Dr Jordi MOLAS-GALLART, SPRU, UK (PE 166.750)

Workplan 1995

- **A prospective analysis of European pharmaceutical research, development and innovation**, by the Institute for Prospective Technological Assessment (IPTS), EC/JRC, Sevilla.
- **An appraisal of technologies of political control**, Final Report, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Dr Steve WRIGHT, Omega Foundation, UK (PE 166.499)

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

The following Project Steering Groups (PSG) are holding meetings:

- 97/C05/3 - Operational requirements of a commercial fusion reactor.** A PSG meeting for this project is foreseen to be held on Wednesday, 9 April, at 16.30 pm, in Strasbourg. It will be attended by Mrs PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL, MEP; Mr GAUBE, Belgatom; Mr LAKE, DGII/Research secretariat and Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, STOA.
- 97/C01/1 - Human rights and the Internet.** The PSG will be held on Thursday, 17 April in Brussels LEO 4C85 at 15.00.
- 97/C05-C15/1 - Transparency and openness in scientific and advisory committees - the American and Japanese experience.** In Planning.
- 97/C10/1 - General influence of speed limiters on the traffic flow; road safety; users and other aspects.** Thursday, 17 April in Brussels at 11.00 Place to be announced.

The following Project Steering Group (PSG) has held a scoping meeting in the past month:

1997 Workplan

- 97/C09/1 - Scientific and technological assessment of the consequences of the information society for the development of the least-favoured regions**

Date/place: 20 March 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs OLLIKAINEN, DGII/Regional Policy secretariat; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Ms FIGUEIRA, STOA Unit.

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

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is sad to announce that Ms Nadine SMYKATZ-KLOSS, Robert Schuman Scholar, who worked on the 1997 project on 'Appropriate energy storage technologies for the use with distributed, stochastic energy sources' left the Team at the end of March. She started at the beginning of the year.

Ms Catarina FIGUEIRA, Robert Schuman Scholar, has also left. She worked on the project on the Information society and the regions of the EU.

We wish them 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).

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

as published in OJ S58 of 22 March 1997

1. *The work of the STOA unit:* STOA is a unit in the Directorate-General for Research of the European Parliament which carries out research for the Committees of the EP assessing policy options in science and technology and related areas. Examples of recent or current projects are: The information society; The car of the future and the future of the car; New biomedical technologies; The ageing of society; Sequencing the human genome: scientific progress, economic, ethical and social aspects; Synergy between the ecology of the sea and the economy of the land.
2. *Purpose of this announcement:* Research organisations and researchers are invited to give information about their field(s) of specialisation and recent work (not limited to the examples given above) to enable the unit to revise its database of potential contractors which was drawn up in 1995 (Official Journal S179 of 20 September 1995). To comply with the Financial Regulation, invitations to tender are sent out by the unit to selected research organisations and researchers.
3. *Procedure:*
 - 3.1 Research organisations and researchers wishing to be included in the revised database should reply to the address below. Replies should be sent preferably by electronic mail; postal/messenger delivery are acceptable. They may be made in any official language of the European Union; a translation into English or French would be appreciated. There is no form for making the expression of interest, and no deadline for submission.
 - 3.2 Those replying must have qualifications and experience in a discipline relevant to STOA's work: in technology assessment, science policy analysis, research evaluation, foresight studies, natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, philosophy or relevant social sciences.
 - 3.3 Expressions of interest will not be acknowledged. The unit reserves the right to invite tenders from organisations and researchers not included in the existing or future database.
 - 3.4 Replies must give:
 - Name(s) and contact details;
 - Field(s) of specialisation;
 - Brief details of recent studies and publications;
 - Brief curriculum vitae of principal researchers.
 - 3.6 Expressions of interest should be sent preferably by electronic mail to: rholdsworth@europarl.eu.int, or otherwise to Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, Head of Unit, STOA, Directorate-General for Research, European Parliament SCH 4/82, Luxembourg, L-2929.

STOA WORKPLAN 1997 - SUMMARY

adopted on 8 January 1997, including ancillary decisions taken on
20 February and 13 March 1997

C1 Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy

- 97/C01/1 **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 - WORKSHOP**
- 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**

STOA PANEL

Committee

BUREAU

CHAIRMAN

Mr Alain POMPIDOU (F, UPE)

VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs Renate HEINISCH (D, PPE)

Mr David BOWE (UK, PSE)

Culture/Youth

Environment/Public Health

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

Mrs Erika MANN (D, PSE)

External economic relations

Mr Hervé FABRE-AUBRESPY (F, EDN)

Legal affairs

Mr Nikolaos PAPAKYRIAZIS (GR, PSE)

Social affairs and Employment

Mr Antoni GUTIÉRREZ DIAZ (E, GUE)

Regional policy

Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (D, PPE)

Transport and Tourism

Mr Glyn FORD (UK, PSE)

Civil liberties and internal affairs

Mr Andrea MANZELLA (I, PSE)

Institutional affairs

Mrs Edith MÜLLER (D, V)

Budgetary control

Mr Gordon ADAM (UK, PSE)

Fisheries

Mrs Eryl McNALLY (UK, PSE)

Women's Rights

Mr Felipe CAMISÓN ASENSIO (ES, PPE)

Petitions

SUBSTITUTES

Mr Joe WILSON (UK, PSE)

Agriculture

Mr Esko Olavi SEPPÄNEN (FIN, GUE/NGL)

Budgets

Mr Franco MALERBA (I, UPE)

Economic and monetary affairs

Mr Christof TANNERT (D, PSE)

Research/Energy

Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL (NL, ELDR)

External economic relations

Mr Julio AÑOVEROS TRIAS DE BES (E, PPE)

Legal Affairs

Mr Friedrich WOLF (D, V)

Social affairs and Employment

Mr Jaime VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ (E, PPE)

Regional policy

Mr Ulrich STOCKMANN (D, PSE)

Transport and Tourism

Mr Hans-Peter LIESE (D, PPE)

Environment

Mr Aldo ARRONI (I, UPE)

Culture/Youth

Mr Bernd POSSELT (D, PPE)

Civil liberties and internal affairs

Mr Jonas SJÖSTEDT (SV, GUE/NGL)

Institutional affairs

Mr James PROVAN (UK, PPE)

Fisheries

Mr Florus WIJSENBECK (NL, ELDR)

Rules of procedure

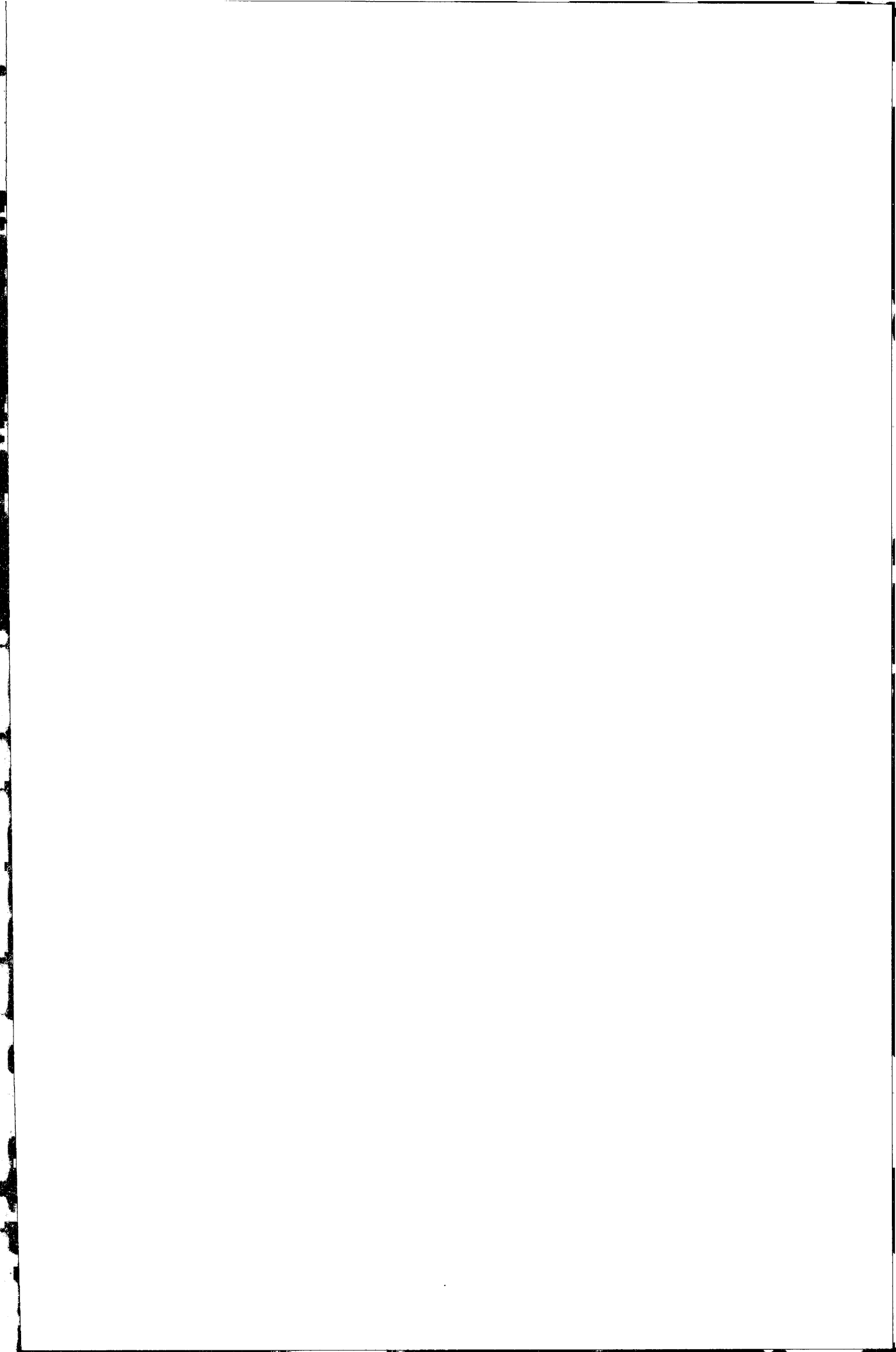
ONLY THE MEMBERS NAMED ABOVE HAVE THE **RIGHT TO VOTE** AT THE
STOA PANEL MEETINGS.

STOA TEAM MEMBERS

NAME	FUNCTION	PHONE	OFFICE
Officials			
HOLDSWORTH, Dick	Head of Unit	4300-2511 284-3747	SCH 4/81 EAS 113
SERCU, Karin	Secretary	284-3748	EAS 112
WEIERS, Jackie	Secretary	4300-2623	SCH 4/82
SCHAERLAEKEN, Frans	Secretariat	4300-3942	SCH 4/37
BLAVA, Vanessa	Secretariat	4300-4342	SCH 4/83
STOA Scholars and Visitors			
FIGUEIRA, Catarina	Economist, STOA Scholar	4300-4226	SCH 4/84
TINUS, Iona	Political scientist, STOA Scholar	4300-3596	SCH 4/84
Administration (DGIV)			
OLIVARES MARTÍNEZ Ismaël	Director	4300-2845	SCH 6/83
VAN DER PERRE, Lieven	Head of Division	4300-2558	SCH 6/64
Financial Administration (DG IV)			
OVERSTALL, John	Administration	4300-2618	SCH 6/07
DAVIES, Ellen	Secretary	4300-3424	SCH 6/27

	Fax Numbers	Phone Numbers	Addresses
Luxembourg (+352)	4300.2418 or 4300.4167	4300.2511 or 4300.3596	Schuman Building L-2929 Luxembourg
Brussels (+322)	284.9059	284.3747 or 284.3748	Eastman Building B-1047 Bruxelles
Strasbourg (+33)	388.17.9040	388.17.2259 or 388.17.4712	Palais Building (Offices 2078 - 2079) F-67070 Strasbourg

E-mail addresses	LUX: rholdsworth@europarl.eu.int or: stoa@europarl.eu.int
URL-address	BXL: ksercu@europarl.eu.int http://www.europarl.eu.int/dg4/stoa/en/default.htm



STOA PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH
DIRECTORATE B

SCHUMAN 4/81
L-2929 LUXEMBOURG

EASTMAN 112
RUE BELLIARD, 97-113
B-1047 BRUXELLES

TEL. 352/4300.2511
FAX 352/4300.2418

TEL. 32/2/284.3748
FAX 32/2/284.9059