

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT
STOA

STOA

NEWSLETTER

June 1996

Directorate General for Research

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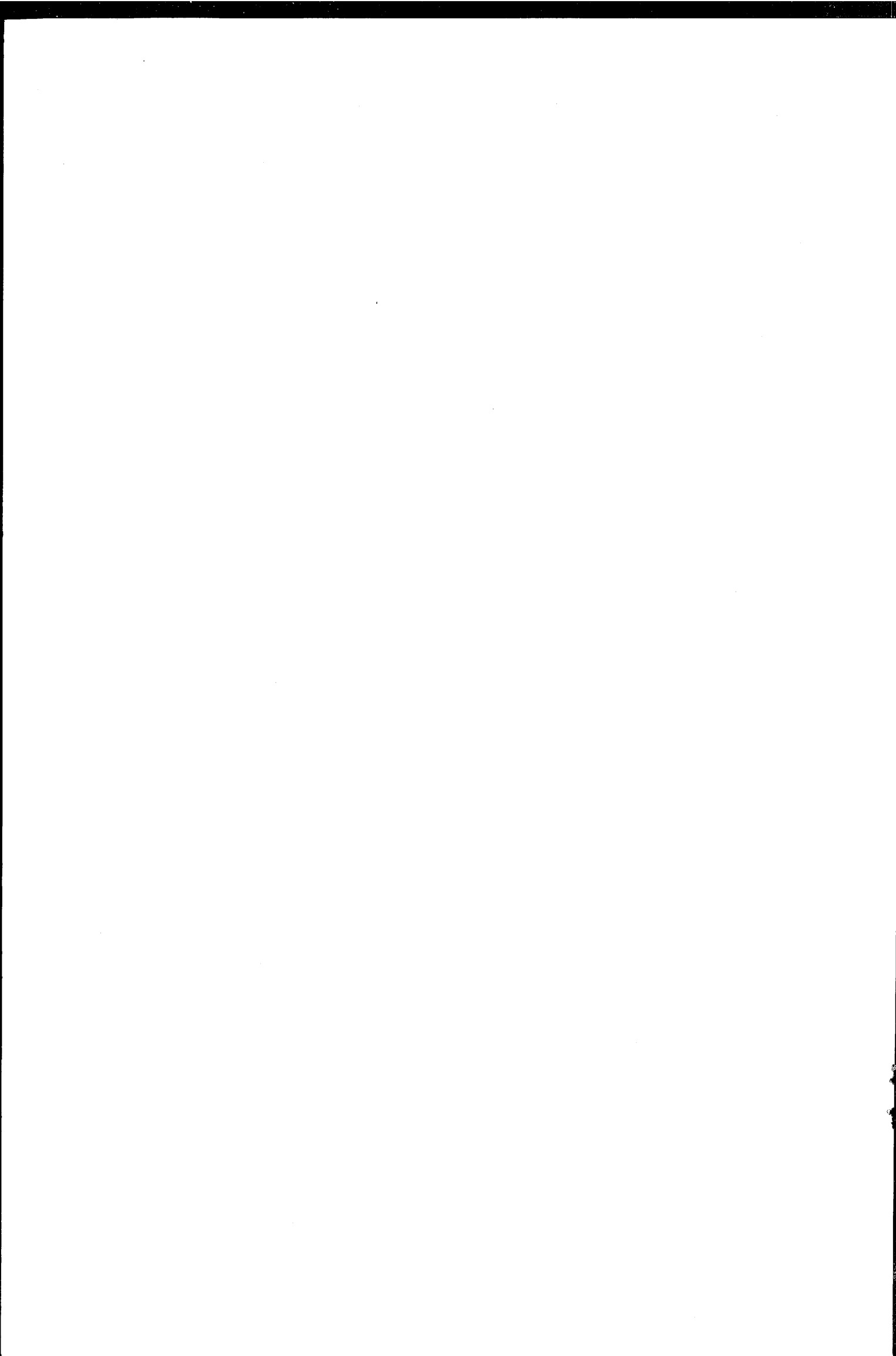
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NEWS

- Mr POMPIDOU, Chairman of STOA, has been informed in a letter from Mr Bruno HALLER, *Greffier* of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, that on 23 April the Assembly adopted Resolution 1083 by which it invites the parliaments of the Member States to set up structures for the assessment of scientific and technological options. STOA's work is explicitly mentioned as an example, especially for the Central and Eastern European countries, as well as that of the EPTA network (European Parliamentary Technology Assessment).
- Mrs Renate HEINISCH, Vice-Chairman, represented STOA when the European Commission (DGXVII) and the Russian Federation organised a second Euratom-Russian Federation Conference on safeguards (nuclear materials accountancy and control) from 3 to 7 June 1996 in Novosibirsk. The first conference was held in St.-Petersburg in April 1994. The aim of this conference was to exchange experience between Western and Russian experts in view of a further development of a control system.
- Mr Hervé FABRÉ-AUBRESPY (F, EDN) takes over from Mrs GEBHARDT to become the new representative on the STOA Panel for the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights.
- The Working document for the STOA Panel on 'Scientific research into living materials: The impact of legal, financial and other constraints' by Prof. Dworkin of King's College, London, was made available at the Public Hearing on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions organised by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens's Rights on 10-11 June in Brussels.
- The Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr Pedro ROSTA, has written to the Chairman of STOA about bioethics. The 'Comité Directeur' on bioethics of the Council of Europe adopted a new draft of the Convention on Bioethics on 7 June. The Parliamentary Assembly, in order to formulate its final opinion on this topic to be presented to the Plenary at the September part-session, is organising a last consultative and informative meeting with the Members of the competent parliamentary committees and the experts of the 'Comité Directeur'. It will take place on Monday, 24 June (+/- 18.00) in room PAL 5 in Strasbourg. A Member of the STOA Panel has been invited.
- 'New biomedical technologies: A prospective assessment' - for the part of this 1995 project being undertaken by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), European Commission, JRC, Seville: 'A prospective analysis of European pharmaceutical research', a working meeting will be held on 26-27 June, at the IPTS. The aim of this first meeting is to assess the study which has been prepared by LSE Health (London School of Economics) and 14 other experts from various Member States. Further meetings are planned for 12 July (Paris) and London (19-20 September).

- A Colloquium on 'Technology, Ethics and Society', organised by Prof. POMPIDOU, Chairman of the STOA Panel, took place on 4 June at the Assemblée Nationale, Paris. The participants were scientists, politicians and officials, including representatives of the European institutions. Mr PASTY, MEP, attended. Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit, was also a participant.
- Mrs HEINISCH, Vice-Chairman, Mrs Rosa RUGGERI, STOA Visitor, and Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of Unit, and attended the Public Hearing on 'Educational multimedia: Uses, benefits, Costs?' organised by the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the media on 11 June in Brussels. The Project Brief on STOA's 1996 project 'The application of multimedia technologies in school: their use, effect and implications' was circulated at the meeting.
- The presentation of the 1995 project on 'Telematics in transport' to the Members of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, scheduled for 3 June, has been postponed to a later date. For the definitive date, please contact the STOA Secretariat in due course.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, PAPERS, BRIEFS

Work in Progress - The following Working documents or reports are being presented to the STOA Panel in June (draft or interim documents, circulated for information only):

- **'Virtual reality training techniques: A report on the use of virtual reality to support medical training'**, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Steve BENFORD, David LLOYD, David SNOWDON, Jolanda TROMP and Rob INGRAM, the University of Nottingham, UK.
- **'Feasibility of rapid evaluation of the spin-offs from nuclear fusion research'**, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Dr J.P. HUSSON & Dr Ph. DE MONTGOLFIER, Paris, France.
- **'Assistive technology for the disabled and elderly: regulations and policy options'**, Working document for the STOA Panel, by Ir Theo BOUGIE, Dr. Ir Mathijs SOEDE and Mrs Drs Petra CROMBAG-RÖBEN of IRV, Hoensbroek, The Netherlands.
- **'Fertility awareness and contraception'**, Working Document for the STOA Project Steering Group:
Contraceptive injectables, by PATH (Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health); *Contraceptive implants*, by Dr S. SEAGAL, The Population Council; *New developments in IUD technology*, by Dr Jason GARDOSI, Perinatal Research and Monitoring Unit. Apart from the external studies commissioned from PATH, The Population Council and the Perinatal Research and Monitoring Unit, the document comprises chapters on: *Oral*

Contraceptives, by Adam HEDGECOE, STOA Scholar, and *Sterilisation*, by Miss Caroline RAY, STOA Scholar. The chapter on *Natural methods of fertility* was prepared for STOA by the Division for Social Affairs, Environment, Consumer Protection and Public Health of the Directorate General for Research (DGIV) and subsequently edited by STOA in the light of comments received.

- 'Photovoltaics and controlled thermonuclear fusion: A case study in European energy research', Working document for the STOA Panel, by Mr Emanuele NEGRO.

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

The following Project Steering Group (PSG) meetings have taken place in the past month:

1995 Workplan

- Damage to EU monuments through pollution**

Date/Place: 29 May 1996, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs María ESTEVAN BOLEA, MEP; Mrs Julia ACEVEDO, EC/DGXII, Ms Laura ROMERO VAQUERO, STOA Visitor.

Main outcomes of the meeting: The progress of research so far by STOA was explained by Ms ROMERO. Mrs ACEVEDO reported on research under the 4th Framework Programme.

For more information please contact the following STOA member(s): Laura ROMERO VAQUERO.

1996 Workplan

- Technical feasibility of trans-European hydro-networks, Project B.P.1 / First PSG meeting**

Date/Place: 10 June 1996, Brussels

Participants included: Mr Juan IZQUIERDO COLLADO, MEP; Mr Gabriel SÁNCHEZ, EP/DGII; Mr Olaf WITTHÖFT, DGIV/B; Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, EP STOA Head of Unit.

Main outcomes of the meeting: Mr IZQUIERDO explained the motivation of the project request. STOA would proceed to a project definition.

For more information please contact the following STOA member(s): Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- Development and application of new information technologies in the next decade, Project A.LP.2(i) / First PSG meeting**

Date/Place: 12 June 1996, Brussels

Participants included: Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL, MEP; Ms Paula WESTHOVEN, Assistant to Mrs Plooi; Mr Claude OUANNES, EC/DGIII.F; Mr Dick HOLDSWORTH, EP STOA Head of Unit.

Main outcomes of the meeting: It was agreed to work further on the project definition at a 2nd PSG meeting on 4 July (13.30, MAE 900) after Mrs PLOOIJ's forthcoming visit to Washington and California to examine the US situation.

For more information please contact the following STOA member(s): Dick HOLDSWORTH.

The following Project Steering Group (PSG) meetings will take place:

- Coastal erosion and regional development.** The first PSG meeting on this 1996 project is planned to take place on Wednesday 19 June 1996 (18.00 to 19.00), in Strasbourg (IP1 434).
- Development and application of new information technologies in the next decade.** The second PSG meeting on this 1996 project is planned to take place on Thursday 4 July 1996 (13.30), in Brussels (MAE 900).
- Women and the Net.** The second PSG meeting on this 1996 project will take place on Wednesday 10 July 1996 in Brussels (time and room to be announced).

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- The Conference on **RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET** is taking place in Milan (17-19 June). It has been organised at the initiative of EUFORES, chaired by Mr ROBLES PIQUER, MEP, with the cooperation of the Italian Presidency of the EU, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The STOA Panel is being represented by Mrs Eryl McNALLY. For more information, please contact the office of Mr Robles Piquer or the STOA secretariat.
- The Rockefeller Foundation (USA) is sponsoring a conference on the **COMPARATIVE ASPECTS OF LAWS THAT AFFECT PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS**. This conference will be a follow-up to an earlier one that explored the question of why there is so little research on methods of contraception, especially in the USA. The conference will be held at the Foundation's Conference Centre in Bellagio (Italy) in the week of 16 October 1996. The issues to be discussed include liability laws, patents and intellectual

property rights, regulatory approval of pharmaceutical products, government efforts to encourage socially beneficial products. The STOA Panel will be represented by its Vice-Chairman, Mrs HEINISCH.

- GERONTOLOGY:** The Second International Conference will take place in Helsinki on 15-17 October 1996 at the Mariner Congress Centre. It is organised by the National Research and Development Centre and Health (STAKES). 'Gerontology', they say, seeks to enhance the interaction between elderly people and their environment in order to maintain the maximum level of sustained functional autonomy and independence'. STAKES compiled STOA's 1995 information society report on information technology in health care. The October Conference will be relevant to the work on 'Ageing in society' which STOA and IPTS have been asked to do for the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy.
- Mr POMPIDOU has been invited to attend the **3RD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON VACCINOLOGY: BUILDING LIFELONG IMMUNITY** organised by the specialised group EVM (European Vaccines Manufacturers) within EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries' Associations). This conference will be held in Berlin, from 16-18 October.
- A PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EUROPEAN PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH:** For information about the Sevilla, Paris and London meetings, see under 'NEWS' above - 'New biomedical technologies'.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is happy to announce the following new arrival:
 - Michael ATKINSON, Visitor, a British chemist and IT expert, who will work on the 1996 project 'Technical feasibility of jamming or censoring racism/pornography on information and communication technologies'.

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 PANEL

BUREAU

Committee

CHAIRMAN

Mr Alain POMPIDOU (F, UPE)

VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

Mrs Fiorella GHILARDOTTI	(I, PSE)	Budgets
Mrs Renate HEINISCH	(D, PPE)	Culture

MEMBERS

Mr Leo TINDEMANS	(B, PPE)	Foreign affairs, Security
Mr Honor FUNK	(D, PPE)	Agriculture
Mrs Ludivina GARCIA ARIAS	(E, PSE)	Economic and monetary affairs
Mrs Eryl McNALLY	(UK, PSE)	Research/Energy
Mrs Pervenche BERES	(F, PSE)	External economic relations
Mr Hervé FABRÉ-AUBRESPY	(F, EDN)	Legal affairs
Mr Nikolaos PAPAKYRIAZIS	(GR, PSE)	Social affairs and Employment
Mr Antoni GUTIERREZ DIAZ	(E, GUE)	Regional policy
Mr Florus WIJSENBECK	(NL, ELDR)	Transport and Tourism
Mr David BOWE	(UK, PSE)	Environment
Mr Edward KELLETT-BOWMAN	(UK, PPE)	Development and Cooperation
Mr Glyn FORD	(UK, PSE)	Civil liberties and internal affairs
Mrs Edith MÜLLER	(D, V)	Budgetary control
Mr Andrea MANZELLA	(I, PSE)	Institutional affairs
Mr Francesco BALDARELLI	(I, PSE)	Fisheries
Mr Willi ROTHLEY	(D, PSE)	Rules of procedure
Mrs María SORNOSA MARTÍNEZ	(E, GUE)	Women's Rights
Mrs Annemarie KUHN	(D, PSE)	Petitions

SUBSTITUTES

Mr Joe WILSON	(UK, PSE)	Agriculture
Mr Fernand HERMAN	(B, PPE)	Economic and monetary affairs
Mr Rolf LINKOHR	(D, PSE)	Research/Energy
Mr Franco MALERBA	(I, UPE)	External economic relations
Mr Friedrich WOLF	(D, V)	Social affairs and employment
Mrs Elisabeth SCHROEDTER	(D, V)	Regional policy
Mr Hans-Peter LIESE	(D, PPE)	Environment
Mr Aldo ARRONI	(I, UPE)	Culture
Mr Bernd POSSELT	(D, PPE)	Civil liberties and internal affairs
Mr James PROVAN	(UK, PPE)	Fisheries
Mr Gianfranco DELL'ALBA	(I, ARE)	Rules of procedure
Mr Roy PERRY	(UK, PPE)	Petitions

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

STOA TEAM MEMBERS

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WEIERS, Jackie	Secretary	4300-2623	SCH 4/82
SCHAERLAEKEN, Frans	Secretariat	4300-3942	SCH 4/37

STOA Fellows, Scholars and Visitors

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FABRÉ ALONSO, Esther	Geologist, STOA Visitor	284-2473	EAS 125
PRENNING, Camilla	Civil Engineer, STOA Visitor	284-2473	EAS 125
ROMERO VAQUERO, Laura	Sociologist, STOA Visitor	4300-3596	SCH 4/84
RUGGERI CANNATA, Rosa	Mathematician, computer scientist, STOA Visitor	4300-4226	SCH 4/84

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