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NEWS

- The procedure for drawing up the 1997 STOA Workplan has commenced. Committees are now considering their projects in response to the invitation to Committee Chairmen, from the Chairman of the STOA Panel, Mr POMPIDOU. The deadline has been set for Monday 9 December to permit the 1997 Workplan to be adopted for Thursday 12 December. This reflects the Commission's presentation of its Draft Legislative Programme for 1997 at the October part session this year.
- Under the 1996 Workplan Project Steering Group meetings and scoping sessions on the various projects in the 1996 Workplan are being held as the research gets under way. See details under 'Project Steering Groups'.
- The car of the future, the future of the car. This major Project will be the subject of a presentation to the STOA Panel at the meeting on 14 November in Strasbourg. The presentation will be made by Mr Costantinos SKARVELAKIS, Université de Compiègne, Mr Jochen NAEGELE of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Sevilla, and Mr William BORTHWICK, European Commission DGXII.F, Task Force 'The Car of Tomorrow'.
- A presentation on 'Telematics in transport' was made by Mr Brendan FINN of ETTS to the Committee on Transport and Tourism meeting on 30 October. The presentation was made in the context of the report by Mr STOCKMANN, Rapporteur, who also attended and took part in the discussions.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, PAPERS, BRIEFS

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

Workplan 1995

- 'The car of the future, the future of the car'**, Options Brief, by Mr Costantinos SKARVELAKIS, Compiègne, France
- 'Nuclear safeguards and nuclear safety in the East'**, Final report, by Mycle SCHNEIDER, Mathieu PAVAGEAU, Bernard LAPONCHE and PERLINE, of WISE, Paris
- 'Fertility awareness and contraception'**, Final report.

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

Project Steering Groups meetings on the current 1996 projects will be held in the coming months. Of note are:

1996 Workplan

- Trans-European hydro-networks.** A PSG meeting with the MEP at the origin of this project, Mr IZQUIERDO COLLADO, and the contractor, Mr VASSILAKIS of ANETEC, Brussels, is planned to take place on Wednesday 13 November 1996, in Strasbourg.
- Scientific research in the fisheries sector.** 26 November 1996 at 2 pm. Venue to be confirmed. This work seeks to take an overview of the key issues in the Fisheries Sector, explore certain priorities/problems, and then examine the possible contribution of Science and Technology to their likely resolution. The contractors are Professor Hans LASSEN from Denmark's Fiskeriundersogelser of Copenhagen, and experts from the French IFREMER Directorate for Living Resources in Paris.
- The ageing of society.** STOA will be making an input into the colloquium organised by the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy, on this subject on 3 December 1996 in Brussels.

1995 Workplan

- Prospective assessment of biomedical technologies: engineering, instrumentation, techniques and pharmaceuticals.** On 29 November a final working meeting in the pharmaceutical research study will be held at the European Medicines Evaluation Ageing in London. This is in the context of the cooperation between STOA and the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Sevilla (IPTS).

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- A Conference on **WOMEN IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY** is being organised by the 'Berätungs- 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. It is planned that the Bochum team will be invited to STOA's forthcoming Workshop on 'Women and the Net'.

- On Monday, 16 December 1996, under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, a Conference on **TECHNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH EVALUATION AND FORESIGHT STUDIES** will take place in Strasbourg. There will be presentations by 8 leading research organisations in this field from around Europe. Representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission, and national parliaments from Member States of the European Council will take part.

- The European Commission (the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, DGXII.B and the Forward Studies Unit) is organising a Symposium on **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT** at the Hotel Eurovillage in Brussels on Tuesday, 19 November. Mrs CRESSON, Commissioner responsible for research, education and training, had welcomed this proposal at the time when the European Parliament (rapporteur Prof. POMPIDOU) had suggested it in its report on the Commission's communication on perspectives for international cooperation in research and technological development (RTD).

The main objective of the Symposium is to define the strategic orientations for international RTD cooperation at EU level. This will form an input to the EC reflections for the elaboration of the relevant chapter in the 5th Framework Programme for RTD (1998-2002).

Prof. ROUTTI, Director-General for Research in the European Commission (DG XII) and Prof. POMPIDOU, MEP, will open the Symposium. Prof. VALLS PASOLA, STOA contractor for the 1996 project on 'Technological innovation and money' is rapporteur for the workshop on Mediterranean and developing countries.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is happy to announce the following new arrival:
 - . Didier FERLIN, Robert Schuman Scholar, a French industrial engineer with a Masters degree in Environmental Management, who will be working on the 1996 project 'Comparison of different technological approaches towards the improvement of legislation concerning emissions by cars and other types of vehicles'.

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

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