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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL OPTIONS ASSESSMENT
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NEWS

- Following the invitation to submit proposals for the Workplan 1998, STOA has received approximately 20 project proposals from the different parliamentary Committees. The Draft Workplan 1998 will be discussed at the meeting of the STOA Panel on 18 December in Strasbourg. The aim is to achieve adoption as soon as possible in order to start work early in the year.

- The seminar on 'Quality in parliamentary technology assessment (TA): The European dimension', held on 12 December in Marseille, was attended by 7 Members of the European Parliament, 3 Members of National Parliaments, representatives from the European Commission, as well as a large number of interested researchers and experts from all EU countries. The morning consisted of case study presentations on quality control in four EPTA (European Parliamentary Technology Assessment) countries: Germany, the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark. A lunch was hosted by the Robert Schuman Foundation. The afternoon was dedicated to round table discussions. All participants were invited for a reception hosted by the Mayor of Marseille, Mr GAUDIN, who, in his speech, expressed appreciation for European research and integration. STOA warmly thanks Prof. Jean-Louis ARMAND, STOA's Chief Adviser on Quality Control, who was responsible for the organisation. Prof. ARMAND will give a presentation of his Final Report on 'Advice on the quality control of technology assessment reports' at the STOA Panel meeting of 15 January 1998 in Strasbourg.
Summary proceedings of the Seminar will be available soon.

- A STOA project presentation meeting was held on 4 December in Brussels. The two projects presented were: 'Multimedia technologies in school' and 'The ageing of society'.

- Dr Steve WRIGHT of the OMEGA Foundation, Manchester, UK, will be giving a presentation of his study on 'An appraisal of technologies of political control' at the STOA Panel meeting of 18 December 1997. The project had been proposed by the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs at the initiative of Mr Glyn FORD.

- STOA welcomed a group of students from the Haarlem Business School in Brussels on 26 November. Dick HOLDSWORTH gave a presentation on Technology Assessment and STOA, placing them in the context of the European Parliament and the European institutions in general.

WORKING DOCUMENTS, REPORTS, PAPERS, BRIEFS

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

Workplan 1997

- The operational requirements of a commercial fusion reactor (97/C05/3)**, Final Report, by Mr Michael SHARPE, ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd., Birmingham, UK
- Sequencing the human genome: Scientific progress, economic, ethical and social aspects (97/C05/4)**, Scoping Meeting Report, by Prof. Ruth CHADWICK, Centre for Professional Ethics, University of Central Lancashire, UK
- Prospects for the application of superconductivity in the storage and transport of electricity (97/C05/5)**, Scoping Meeting Report, by Prof. Richard ARTLEY and Dr Trevor CLIFTON, Scientific Generics Ltd., Cambridge, UK
- General influence of speed limiters on traffic flow, road safety, users and other aspects (97/C10/1)**, Scoping Meeting Report, by Mrs Leire BARRIUSO, ASTECO Expertos en Temas Europeos, Bilbao, Spain
- Virtual libraries and education: A prospective technology assessment (97/C12/1)**, Interim Report (FR), by Mr Eric SUTTER, Bureau Van Dijk, Paris, France
- Methodological approach for the determination of environmental impacts of 'free fish farming at sea' (related to 97/C17/2)**, by Mr Alexander POTRYKUS, STOA Scholar
- Telematic applications in road transport and their environmental impact (related to 97/C10/1)**, by Ms Taru VUONTISJÄRVI, STOA Visiting Researcher
- Sustainable road transport and urban development: definition of an evaluation framework (related to 97/C10/1) (in Italian)**, by Mr Lucio DI MARTINO, STOA Scholar

Workplan 1996

- The ageing of society: Progress in medical and pharmaceutical research and technology and its socio-economic consequences**, Final Report, by Dr S.M. THOMAS and Dr J.F. BURKE, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and Biochemistry Department, University of Sussex, UK

Several translations of previous studies are also available.

PROJECT STEERING GROUPS

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

- 97/C17/2 -Aquaculture: Deployment of an open-sea marine park with self-restocking by behaviourally conditioned fish.** A scoping meeting with Mr d'ABOVILLE, author of the project, and Mr John BOSTOCK of the Stirling Institute of Aquaculture, is foreseen to be held on Wednesday, 17 December, at 16.00 in Strasbourg.
- 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, is planned to be held on 21 January 1998 in Brussels.

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

1997 Workplan

- 97/C05/5 - Prospects for the application of superconductivity**

Date/place: 20 November 1997, Strasbourg

Participants included: Mr MALERBA, MEP; Mr ROSATELLI, Ansaldo Ricerche, Genova; Prof. ARTLEY and Dr CLIFTON of Scientific Generics, UK; Prof. ARMAND, STOA Chief Quality Advisor; Mr VAN DER PERRE, Head of Division, DGIV/B; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr MICHELETTI, STOA Scholar.

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

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

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

Date/place: 26 November 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mr HEALY, Green Group/Energy; Prof. ASSIMAKOPOULOS and Ms LOPP, University of Ioannina, Greece; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Ms SERCU, STOA Secretariat.

Main outcomes: This was a second scoping meeting for the finetuning of the planning of the Workshop. The Workshop date was set to 5 February 1998, the programme and list of speakers were discussed.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- **97/C05/4 - Sequencing the human genome: scientific progress, economic and ethical and social aspects**

Date/place: 27 November 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Prof. Pompidou, MEP; Prof. CHADWICK and Mr HEDGECOE, Centre for Professional Ethics, Lancashire, UK; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit.

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

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

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

Date/place: 27 November 1997, Strasbourg

Participants included: Mrs HEINISCH, MEP; Mr MAAS and Mr KENIS, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit.

Main outcomes: This was a scoping meeting at which the planning of the Workshop by the contractor was discussed. The Workshop date was set for 2-3 March 1998.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

- **97/C01/1 - The use of Internet in the European Parliament's activities for the promotion of human rights**

Date/place: 10 December 1997, Brussels

Participants included: Mr NOONAN, DGII/Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Mr HALPIN, Central University of Lancashire, UK; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit.

Main outcomes: This was a second scoping meeting for the finetuning of the planning of the Workshop. The Workshop date was set to 5 February 1998, the programme and list of speakers were discussed.

For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.

WORKSHOPS

The following STOA Workshops are in preparation:

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

The Workshop is planned to take place on Tuesday, 27 January 1998 (morning and afternoon) in Brussels (Room to be defined).

The Centre for Research in Library and Information Management (CERLIM), at the University of Central Lancashire, are working with colleagues from the human rights movements in Europe to deliver a Workshop on Human Rights on the Internet. A number of meetings have taken place involving Amnesty International, the Organisation Mondiale Contre La Torture (OMCT) and other NGOs involved in human rights.

The last meeting of the group took place on 28 October 1997, when a list of speakers to be invited from across Europe, Asia and America was formulated. The Workshop will provide an opportunity to consider the possible future work of the European Parliament in promoting and protecting human rights.

A survey of Internet usage by human rights activists is to be undertaken during November and December, to be carried out on Amnesty's Web Site. Simultaneously OMCT, Geneva will conduct the survey by e-mail and by post.

For further information contact Eddie HALPIN at CERLIM on +44-1772-892491 or e.f.halpin1@uclan.ac.uk

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

The Workshop is planned to take place on Thursday, 5 February 1998 (09.00 to 17.30) in Brussels (Room to be defined).

The aim of the Workshop is to analyse and assess recent debate concerning basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation in a manner that will be useful to the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy of the European Parliament, and to the Parliament as a whole, in their deliberations on this subject.

The Workshop format chosen is intended to make it possible to hear presentations by independent experts on aspects of risk analysis, the reliability of empirical data from different sources, the validity of standard-setting criteria and to assess criticisms which have been made of standards recommended by the International Committee on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

The Workshop will be divided into four Sessions. Each Session will contain formal presentations from invited 'expert speakers' with a question and answer period after each presentation. There will be also time for some short contributed oral presentations. The topics to be discussed in the four Sessions will be:

1. The current debate on basic safety standards for the protection of workers and the public against ionising radiation
2. Ionising radiation and biological systems
 - . Link between exposure rates and cancer (including leukaemia), congenital deformity and other disease.

- . Exposure levels for children and pregnant women
 - . Sources and significance of occupational and public exposure from nuclear medicine
 - . Chronic exposure to low level radiation
 - . Radiological protection criteria for workers and the public
3. Risk assessment
- . Evaluation of assessment techniques
 - . Methods of quantification of radioactive contamination and estimates of health risk
 - . Radioactive waste management
4. Legislation, validation and implementation
- . The standards-setting process (ICRB, IAEA, EURATOM, National bodies)
 - . Theoretical validation of standards
 - . Public debate on standards
 - . Parliamentary control of the standard-setting process

For further information contact Prof. P.A. ASSIMAKOPOULOS at the University of Ioannina, on +30-651-98551 or e-mail: pasimak@cc.uoi.gr

95/ENVI/SP/2 - Environmental Coastguard

The Workshop is planned to take place on Monday, 9 February 1998 (PM) and Tuesday, 10 February 1998 (AM) in Brussels (Room to be defined).

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

The Workshop is planned to take place on Monday, 2 March 1998 (PM) and Tuesday, 3 March 1998 (AM) in Brussels (Room to be defined).

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).

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

Date in 1998 to be finalised.

OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is glad to announce that the following has joined the Team:
 - . Mr Werner RUESS, an Austrian lawyer, who will be working as a Visiting Researcher on the project 'The Lome V Convention in the year 2000 - science and technology policy aspects' and on the preparation of a project from the new Workplan.

 - STOA is sad to announce that the following have left the Team:
 - . Ms Sonja MEHLBAUM, who worked on the project on 'The use of Internet for the promotion of human rights';
 - . Mr Giorgio MICHELETTI, who worked on the project on 'Transparency and openness in the scientific and advisory committees';
 - . Ms Louise STRÖMBERG, who worked on the project on 'Virtual libraries and education' and as EPTA coordinator. Her invaluable help with the preparation of the Seminar in Marseille was highly appreciated.
- We wish them all the best for the future.
- For STOA's new addresses in Brussels, please see list at the back.



We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



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

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Mr David BOWE (UK, PSE)

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Committee

Culture/Youth
Environment/Public Health

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Mr Antoni GUTIÉRREZ DIAZ (E, GUE)

Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (D, PPE)

Mr Roberto SPECIALE (I, PSE)

Mr Glyn FORD (UK, PSE)

Mr Andrea MANZELLA (I, PSE)

Mr Ulf HOLM (SV, V)

Mr Gordon ADAM (UK, PSE)

Mr Florus WIJSENBEEK (NL, ELDR)

Mrs Eryl McNALLY (UK, PSE)

Mr Felipe CAMISÓN ASENSIO (ES, PPE)

Foreign Affairs, Security

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Economic and Monetary Affairs

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Development and Cooperation

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Institutional Affairs

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Fisheries

Rules of Procedure

Women's Rights

Petitions

SUBSTITUTES

Mr Joe WILSON (UK, PSE)

Mr Esko Olavi SEPPÄNEN (FIN, GUE/NGL)

Mr Franco MALERBA (I, UPE)

Mr Christof TANNERT (D, PSE)

Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL (NL, ELDR)

Mr Julio AÑOVEROS TRIAS DE BES (E, PPE)

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Mr Hans-Peter LIESE (D, PPE)

Mr Aldo ARRONI (I, UPE)

Mr Bernd POSSELT (D, PPE)

Mr Jonas SJÖSTEDT (SV, GUE/NGL)

Mr James PROVAN (UK, PPE)

Mrs Renate HEINISCH (D, PPE)

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Environment

Culture/Youth

Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs

Institutional Affairs

Fisheries

Women's Rights

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

Directorate-General for Research, Directorate B, Division for Environment, Energy and STOA

RAMSAY, Robert	Director-General	4300-22535	SCH 6/01
OLIVARES MARTÍNEZ, Ismaël	Director	4300-22845	SCH 6/83
VAN DER PERRE, Lieven	Head of Division	4300-22558	SCH 6/64
STOA Unit			
HOLDSWORTH, Dick	Head of Unit	4300-22511 28-43747	SCH 4/81 LEO 6D112
WEIERS, Jackie	Secretary	4300-22623	SCH 4/82
SERCU, Karin	Secretary	28-43748	LEO 6D110
SCHAERLAEKEN, Frans	Secretariat	4300-23942	SCH 4/37
GUERRA, María Luisa	Secretary	4300-24342	SCH 4/83
OVERSTALL, John	Principal Administrator, Budget	4300-22618	SCH 6/07
LIGNON, Karine	Scholar, Fisheries economist	4300-23923	SCH 4/36
MEHLBAUM, Sonja	Scholar, European lawyer	4300-23596	SCH 4/84
MICHELETTI, Giorgio	Scholar, Political scientist	4300-23596	SCH 4/84
RUESS, Werner	Visiting Researcher, Lawyer	4300-24226	SCH 4/84
STRÖMBERG, Louise	Visiting Researcher, EPTA Coordinator, Political scientist	4300-23596	SCH 4/84

	Fax Numbers	Phone Numbers	Addresses
Luxembourg (+352)	4300.22418 or 4300.24167	4300.22511 or 4300.22623	Schuman Building L-2929 Luxembourg
Brussels (+322)	284.9059	284.3747 or 284.3748	Leopold Building rue Wiertz 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

TEL. 352/4300.22511
FAX 352/4300.22418
E-MAIL rholdsworth@europarl.eu.int

LEOPOLD 6D110
RUE WIERTZ
B-1047 BRUXELLES

TEL. 32/2/284.3748
FAX 32/2/284.9059
E-MAIL ksercu@europarl.eu.int