

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM - EU

workplan is developed by the STOA Panel composed of Members of the European Parliament, who represent the 17 permanent Committees of the Parliament. STOA is committed to cooperation with the best and most up-to-date expertise in Europe and elsewhere. Members of the Unit have been drawn from all the EU Member States and other countries like United States. The 2000 Workplan includes studies on such topics as:

- New technologies in defence policy and conflict management: A challenge for the EU
- Technological feasibility of reducing the costs of small cross-border credit transfers (CBCTs) within the euro-zone
- Microbiological threats to food
- Neurotoxicology of environmental pollutants
- Recycled cooking oils: Assessment of risks for public health
- The consequences of enlargement on EU agriculture
- Meeting demand for sustainable transport and transport infrastructure in the enlarged EU
- Technological requirements for solutions in the conservation and protection of historic monuments and archeological remains (previously "Technological requirements in architectural and archeological restoration")

The European Council

The European Council brings together the Heads of State or Government of the fifteen Member States of the European Union and the President of the European Commission. The European Council is hosted by and takes place in the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council, and punctuates the political life and development of the European Union by meeting at least twice a year (generally in June and December). The General Secretariat of the Council also has a Research Directorate-General which reviews research policies and budgets and does intergovernmental coordination (e.g. COST Programme).

With the Special European Council held in Lisbon by the Portuguese EU Council Presidency on 23 and 24 March 2000, RTD policy was given greater recognition than ever before as a major priority on the agenda of the Heads of State and Government. They placed the creation of a European Research Area at the heart of their strategy for making the EU a leading competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, and called upon the Council and the Commission, together with Member States, to take necessary steps in the following areas: networking national and joint research programmes on a voluntary basis; improving the environment for private research investment, R&D partnerships and high technology start-ups; developing an open method of coordination for benchmarking national R&D policies; creating a very high-speed trans-European telecommunications network for research; creating a European area in which there is free mobility for researchers, and which is attractive at the