



Commission of the European Communities

**The evaluation of the Community
programme on forecasting and
assessment in the field of science and
technology FAST (1978-83)**



Research Evaluation-Report N° 6

EUR 8274 EN, FR

Per la disponibilità del rapporto, visitare il sito

www.cordis.lu

This report covers the findings of the external panel of experts set up to evaluate the results of the Community's first programme on "Forecasting and assessment in the field of science and technology (FAST) (1978-83)".

The evaluation covers the quality of the research and relevance and usefulness of the results, the effectiveness of the FAST evaluation network, the management of the programme and the utilization of resources.

The report describes the content and the structures of the programme, outlines the methods and procedures used during the evaluation, and concludes with a number of recommendations for the future programme resulting from the evaluation.


P R E F A C E

In July 1978 the Council of Ministers agreed on a programme of forecasting and Assessment in Science and Technology (FAST).

This programme was set up following the Europe Plus Thirty study, which advised the Commission on the feasibility and utility of a Community capabilities in forecasting and long-term assessment. Following the results of this study and the decision of the Council of Ministers in January 1974 to develop a common science and technology policy, the Commission saw the potential importance of long-term forecasting activities as a basic tool for the definition of objectives and priorities for Community R&D.

The FAST programme is the first of its kind within the Commission, and is experimental in nature. It is also the first occasion on which an evaluation was specifically requested by the Council of Ministers at the time of establishing the programme. This evaluation is therefore of particular importance to the Commission for assessing the utility and practicability of long-term forecasting activities and the soundness of the approach adopted, and for making recommendations on the possible future orientation of the programme.

The nature and broad scope of these activities makes this a particularly difficult programme to evaluate and the members of the panel are to be commended for having carried out their task so effectively in the short time available to them.



PAOLO FASELLA

DIRECTOR GENERAL
for Science, Research and Development
Joint Research Centre