
UK Parliament - Digest of Parliamentary Debates, Questions and Answers

19th April - 27th May 2004

The references are to Hansard, giving first the date of publication, either HoC (House of Commons) or HoL (House of Lords), and finally the column number in Hansard.

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Medicines – adjournment debate – 25.5.04
HoC 412WH
Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations –
27.4.04 HoL WA81
Debate – 19.5.04 HoL 845
Mifegyne – 28.4.04 HoC 1091W
Morphine Sulphate – 17.5.04 HoC 810W
MS Treatment – 19.5.04 HoC 1096W
Nanotechnology – 19.4.04 HoC 199W
Obesity – 23.4.04 HoC 705W & 5.5.04 HoC 1621W

Pharmaceutical Research – 19.5.04 HoC 1027W
Potassium Chloride Solution – 28.4.04 HoC 1095W
Rituximab – 18.5.04 HoC 970W
Sativex – 26.5.04 HoC 1707W
Serotonin – 11.5.04 HoC 319W
Seroxat – 19.4.04 HoC 221W
Statins – 20.4.04 HoC 419W & 17.5.04 HoC 692W

Nuclear and Radiation Hazards

Berkeley Nuclear Research Laboratories – 10.5.04
HoC 75W
Cancer – 12.5.04 HoC 353W
Chernobyl – 13.5.04 HoC 488W
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – 19.4.04
HoC 71W & 27.5.04 HoC 88WS
Contingencies Fund – 27.5.04 HoL WS59
Nuclear Energy – 11.5.04 HoC 253W
Nuclear Material – 26.4.04 HoL WA74 & 11.5.04
HoC 254W
Security – 19.4.04 HoC 319W
Nuclear Safety – 6.5.04 HoC 1714W
Nuclear Weapons – 19.4.04 HoC 319W
Radiation Exposure – 26.4.04 HoC 727W
Radioactive Contamination (Chernobyl Accident) –
4.5.04 HoC 1409W & 11.5.04 HoC 208W
Radioactive Waste – 19.4.04 HoC 149W & 21.5.04
HoC 1223W
Radon Gas – 6.5.04 HoC 1806W & 10.5.04 HoC 29W
Russian Nuclear Submarines – 24.5.04 HoC 1362W
Security Threat (Mox Plutonium) – 10.5.04 HoC 75W

Science Policy

Chief Scientific Adviser – 19.4.04 HoC 31W
Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research
Councils – 4.5.04 HoC 1401W
European Research Council – 18.5.04 HoC 895W &
21.5.04 HoC 1275W
Higher Education Links Programme – 12.5.04 HoL WS7
International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor –
21.5.04 HoC 1276W
Medical Research – 4.5.04 HoC 1195
Regional Development Agencies and Science – debate –
29.4.04 HoL 943
Research for Patient Benefit Working Party – 17.5.04
HoL WA72
Research and Development – 26.5.04 HoC 1679W
Grants – 26.5.04 HoC 1681W
Research Assessment Exercise – 21.5.04 HoC 1272W
Science and Innovation Committee – 26.5.04
HoC 1712W
* Science Funding – 18.5.04 HoC 897W
Science Research – 6.5.04 HoC 1726W
Science Strategy – 19.4.04 HoC 14W & 367W &
30.4.04 HoC 1365W

Space

Beagle Project – 25.5.04 HoC 1557W
Manned Space Travel – 10.5.04 HoC 83W
Micro-satellites – 10.5.04 HoC 83W

Sustainable Development

- Butterflies – 29.4.04 HoC 1192W
- Deforestation – 19.4.04 HoC 387W
- Environmental Policy (Economic Instruments) – adjournment debate – 19.5.04 HoC 303WH
- Green Minister – 23.4.04 HoC 674W
- Sustainable Development – 20.4.04 HoC 417W, 10.5.04 HoC 66W, 12.5.04 HoC 342W & 372W, 13.5.04
- * HoC 558W & 21.5.04 HoC 1224W
 - UK Strategy – 21.4.04 HoC 18WS & 6.5.04 HoC 1669W
- UN Environment Programme – 19.4.04 HoC 155W
- World Oceans Day – 21.5.04 HoC 1226W

Telecommunications and Broadcasting

- Digital Switchover – 19.5.04 HoC 53WS
- Digital Television – 19.5.04 HoL WS34
- Mobile Phone Masts – 20.4.04 HoC 409W
- Mobile Phones – 21.4.04 HoC 545W & 11.5.04 HoC 316W
- Mobile Telecommunications Masts – 12.5.04 HoC 460W
- Mobile/Wireless Communications – 25.5.04 HoC 1601W
- Ofcom: Radio Spectrum – 4.5.04 HoL WA102
- Telecommunications Masts – 10.5.04 HoC 192W
- Tetra – 12.5.04 HoC 352W
 - Radiation – 20.4.04 HoC 429W
- Transmitter Masts – 26.5.04 HoC 1650W
- Ultra-wideband Wireless Network – 4.5.04 HoC 1406W

Transport

- Bus Emissions: 3-nitrobenzanthrone – 11.5.04 HoL WA28
- Diesel Spillages – 28.4.04 HoC 997W
- Electric Cars – 17.5.04 HoC 714W
- Explosives (Detection) – 6.5.04 HoC 1677W
- Faulty Exhaust Pipes – 28.4.04 HoC 997W
- Greenhouse Gases – 19.4.04 HoC 58W
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas – 27.5.04 HoC 1776W
- Motorcycle Braking Systems – 17.5.04 HoL WA67
- Noisy Roads – 18.5.04 HoC 833W
- Petrol and Diesel Fuel – 11.5.04 HoL WA27
- Radioactive Materials – 17.5.04 HoC 716W
- Road Noise – 6.5.04 HoC 1677W
- Road Surfaces – 26.5.04 HoL WA147
- Road Surface Noise – 20.4.04 HoC 461W
- Tyres – 19.4.04 HoC 62W & 4.5.04 HoC 1395W

Waste

- Batteries – 28.4.04 HoC 1003W & 6.5.04 HoC 1650W
- Battery Recycling – 6.5.04 HoC 1476
- Recycling – 24.5.04 HoC 1294W
- Waste Management – 26.4.04 HoC 720W, 28.4.04 HoC 1027W, 6.5.04 HoC 82WS & 1670W
- Waste Research Strategy – 28.4.04 HoC 1035W

Water

- Fluoride – 17.5.04 HoC 798W
- Water Flow – 19.4.04 HoC 162W
 - Pollution – 5.5.04 HoC 76WS
 - Quality – 19.4.04 HoC 163W

Euro-News

Commentary on science and technology within the European Parliament and the Commission.

Research is part of the European Identity

“Twenty five years ago the Union’s research budget was €120m a year, now it stands at €4b a year”, said Dr Linkohr MEP for Germany who stepped down before the 10 June elections. “Research is no longer simply a technical means of solving problems, it has become part of the European identity” he argued. At the beginning national attitudes were dominant, but now a European network has been created. The European Research Area (ERA) concept proves that we are much more European in our approach than before.

One of his most high profile campaigns has been directed towards increasing the EU spend on research, calling for a 70% increase in the Framework Programme budget and the establishment of a European Research Council (ERC) to increase financial support for basic research. The third pillar comprises a European innovation area, or council, with a focus on improving the research and innovation capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Europe. “SMEs are

our real weakness in Europe” he argues.

“Ethical assessment of research on biotechnology, nuclear energy and stem cells have exposed sensitivities. If we want a genuine ERA, then we have to seek compromise at a European level” believes Dr Linkohr. “I will never stop working to promote science and technology in Europe” he concluded.

<http://www.linkohr.de/>

EU prepared to take risks

The issue facing participants at the Congress was how to promote scientific research in Europe in the context of the EU’s Lisbon objectives of becoming the world’s most competitive economy by 2010.

Mr Prodi urged Europe’s policy makers to be brave enough to take the necessary decisions and to take risks “if we take no risks, we guarantee mediocrity” he said. One of the great strengths of the US is that it has learned to be “big enough to