

Electronic communications: universal service, users' rights relating to networks and services, processing of personal data, protection of privacy, consumer protection cooperation. 'Telecoms Package'

2007/0248(COD) - 29/07/2009 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

At its Plenary Session of 6 May 2009, the European Parliament adopted a number of amendments negotiated with the Council to the Council's common position with a view to securing adoption in second reading. The Commission accepts the European Parliament's amendments to the common position as being in line with the overall purpose and the general characteristics of the proposal.

These amendments concern essentially:

- adaptation of universal service to market and technological developments, including allowing Member States to upgrade universal service obligations to broadband services;
- strengthened access to e-communications for disabled people, in particular via the inclusion of terminal equipment in the scope of the Directive; increased access to and choice of services for the disabled, strengthened right to emergency services in the EU;
- improved contract conditions and greater information to consumers on services, including increased comparability of prices and greater power to the NRAs on tariff information for consumers;
- information to users on the most common uses of e-communications services to engage in unlawful activities or to disseminate harmful content;
- **strengthened provisions on access to emergency services**, including *inter alia* a stronger obligation to pass caller location information to the emergency authorities, improved citizens awareness of '112' number; and introduction of comitology powers for the Commission on access to '112' services;
- facilitating citizens' access to 116 services, and comitology powers for the Commission to ensure the effective implementation of 116 numbering ranges;
- facilitation of change of provider, including a time limit for number activation after porting; reinforcement of NRAs' powers to monitor and enforce porting; creation of comitology powers for the modernisation of porting obligations;
- strengthened obligation for Member States to review 'must carry' obligations;
- modernisation and updating of legislation to technology and market developments, streamlining of the provisions of the Directive (eg deletion of outdated obligations, etc.);
- measures to be taken by providers in order to safeguard the security of their services;
- obligation for providers of electronic communications services to notify security breaches affecting personal data to authorities and (in some cases) to subscribers or individuals concerned and introduction of comitology powers for the Commission on the modalities of breach notifications;
- strengthened provisions on protection against spyware and placing of cookies on users' devices.