# Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

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The rapporteur, Mr Hoppenstedt (EPP, D), noted that thanks to Pentagon funding the United States had taken a considerable lead in this field, while Europe lagged far behind. The European industry therefore needed a wake-up call and would have to follow the path outlined by the proposal for a directive. The rapporteur expressed the hope that the Council would give a positive reception to Parliament’s amendments in the interest of European undertakings. Commissioner Bangemann confirmed that in this sector it was necessary to act very quickly to pre-empt the competition. Nevertheless, he was critical of Parliament’s attitude, which seemed to ignore the risk of creating a private monopoly in this area; in fact, he took the view that national authorisations for the granting of individual licences would lead to deadlock.