Europe's way to the information society: an action plan

1994/2106(COS) - 02/02/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

The Committee expressed its support for the Commission Communication and made the following comments: - it endorsed the liberalisation of telecommunications infrastructure and services for its potential to improve the quality of life of citizens; - it pointed out that the relevant powers of the Member States, particularly their powers to regulate the media and broadcasting, should be preserved; - it would make such liberalisation dependent on the prior and effective guarantee of universal service in strict compliance with the principle of economic and social cohesion; - it considered that a rigorous study should be made of the impact of applications in the social, economic and cultural spheres so that suitable measures could be adopted to ensure that the transition to the new information society was socially acceptable. It considered that the principle of ensuring universal provision of essential public information regardless of the citizen’s ability to pay should be embraced by local and regional bodies in preparing for and consolidating the information society. It offered itself as a potential basis for the development of an information network connecting the local and regional authorities of Europe .