Telecommunications: universal service in the perspective of a fully liberalized environment

1996/2052(COS) - 25/09/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee agrees with the Commission that the concept of universal service must form a firm anchor for the regulatory reforms underway at national level with a view to fully liberalizing the telecommunications sector in Europe. The Committee considers it important to put pressure on Member States to introduce the universal service as quickly as possible. Coordination of this work would be furthered by the establishment of a European regulatory body, which the Committee supported in its Opinion on the ONP directive (COM(95) 379 final) issued on 28-29 February 1996. Finally, as progress towards the information society continues, the Commission and the Member States are urged to adopt every possible measure in support of disadvantaged regions so that the digitalization of networks is speeded up in those regions and regional imbalances in the Community are thereby reduced. The aim of providing all citizens with a broad high-quality universal service will thus be furthered.