Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

1995/0156(CNS) - 21/12/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee fears that the Commission is generally tending to underestimate the possible socio-economic consequences of excessive mass media concentration or of the inability to guarantee a plurality of sources of information. While the principles of liberalization, deregulation, competitiveness etc. are actively supported by the Commission, it is a source of great concern that the standards to be observed within the regulatory framework have not yet been stablished. Although the ESC fully supports the INFO 2000 Programme's stated objectives, it cannot but regret that the content of the draft Programme fails fully to meet the stated objectives: its overall direction is sometimes vague and its scope is not fully defined. Acknowledging the importance and relevance of a speedy Community initiative on the information-content industry, the ESC therefore urges the Commission to consider whether it should, as clearly as possible, make the following points in the programme: - Given the correlation with other Community programmes in the information sector, the ESC believes that INFO 2000 should be viewed as an instrument for closer overall coordination. - In view of the meagre overall funding, at least for the first four-year period, the percentage distribution between the various Action Lines should be altered so as to trigger the greatest possible European potential. - In the interests of preventing excessive dilution of the limited resources and of attaining maximum action efficiency, the number of possible projects should be reduced to a minimum applying their workability as the criterion and giving priority to those of a social nature.