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

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The vote on the INFO2000 programme (report by Mrs Pervenche BERES (PSE, F)), which was intended to stimulate the development of a European multimedia industry, has given rise to more than fifty amendments whose purpose was to clarify what the Economic Committee and the advisory committees expect from such a programme. The general direction of these amendments was to prevent the INFO2000 programme from being restricted to a limited number of private users and make it of greater benefit to public institutions and organisations. The Economic Committee has been very reserved about the means proposed by the Commission to make use of information sources held by the public sector and has ruled out the assumption that this information would be used by the private sector alone. In addition, emphasis was put on the role which the INFO2000 programme would play in meeting the specific needs of the European multimedia market, which was culturally and linguistically fragmented.