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

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The liberalization of telecommunications must go hand in hand with efforts to provide a universal service. This was the message in the report (consultation) by Pervenche BERES (PSE, F) a universal telecommunications service. It was adopted by the Committee, chaired by Karl VON WOGAU, EPP, D. The proposal stresses the need for as wide a definition of the universal service as possible, in order to avoid disparities between Member States. The list of basic services should be updated from time to time. There should also be a guarantee that local calls can be made at a modest price. Public access should be guaranteed to networks and services in schools and libraries. The draft resolution urges the need for a funding mechanism to ensure universality. Those that provide mobile telephone services should also take part so that contributions are not limited to those that provide voice telephony or services connected to the public network.