

# **Telecommunications: interconnection, universal service and interoperability of networks and services, open network provision ONP**

1995/0207(COD) - 20/03/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

The amended proposal incorporated, in whole or in part, 45 of the 69 amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading. The Commission accepted the amendments: - stressing the importance of guaranteeing universal service and a single European telecommunications market; - concerning number portability; - stressing the need to protect the environment; - increasing transparency and ensuring reasonable confidentiality; - calling for greater coordination among national regulatory authorities and between them and the Commission; - clarifying the text in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Directive; - calling for the possibility of setting up a European regulatory authority for telecommunications to be studied in connection with the review of the Directive in 1999; - which were compatible with existing European legislation. However, the Commission did not incorporate the amendments seeking in particular: - to restrict the scope of the Directive to interconnection between public networks of the same type and extending the confidentiality requirement to all telecommunications networks (public and private); - to replace the requirement of complete accounting separation with a less stringent requirement that accounts be transparent; - to regard services which cannot at present be made available to all users as forming part of a universal service obligation; - provide for the costs of universal service obligations to be shared among all telecommunications network operators (and not only among public network operators); - to delete the concept of market advantage for organizations subject to universal service obligations; - to reduce the role of national regulatory authorities in supervising contributions to covering universal service costs; - to make it possible to bring proceedings simultaneously in the national courts and at EU level; - to delete certain elements from the definition of the concept of power on the market; - to restrict the framework governing collocation and facility sharing.