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

1995/0156(CNS) - 14/05/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

The amended proposal for a decision on the adoption of the INFO 2000 programme took over, in full or in part, 24 of the 52 amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading. In this context, the main amendments introduced by the Commission aimed to: - stress the importance of respect for linguistic pluralism; - point out that the measures under the programme should help reduce the risk of exclusion; - specify that cinema and television were included in the audiovisual sector; - emphasise the synergy between the INFO 2000 programme and other Community programmes or initiatives; - extend the Commission's responsibility to the granting of financial aid; - redefine the scope of the comitology procedure; - improve the title of Action line 2 (making good use by the multimedia industry of information held by the public sector); - specify the fields involved in certain pilot projects; - insist on particular encouragement for the development of multimedia services for SMEs amongst the measures aimed at developing and exchanging good practices; - point out that education must devote more attention to Europe's cultural and linguistic heritage and to multimedia; - reiterate the principles of equality, accessibility and low cost with regard to certain basic services which must be respected in the provision of multimedia services; - devote particular attention, at the level of implementation of the programme, to the risks of abuse of multimedia content in such areas as racism, illegal pornography and other criminal activities. The amendments not incorporated into the amended proposal included those which aimed to: - ensure that the actions supported the development of applications serving the purposes of health, education, training and regional planning; - give special treatment to associations and NGOs; - lay down a principle of reciprocity in implementing the programme in cooperation with third countries or international organisations; - establish a new Action line 3 relating to the development of new software packages; - propose a new breakdown of the budget. In this respect, the Commission proposed the following breakdown: . Action line 1 (stimulating demand and raising awareness): 20-30%; . Action line 2 (making good use by the multimedia industry of information held by the public sector): 18-23%; . Action line 3 (triggering European multimedia potential): 43-55%; . Action line 4 (support actions): 7-12%.