

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

1995/0207(COD) - 14/02/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Mel READ (PSE, UK) on the proposal for a directive on interconnection in telecommunications with regard to ensuring universal service and interoperability through application of the principles of Open Network Provision (ONP). In relation to the Commission proposal, the European Parliament proposed, in particular: - conferring on the Commission increased powers of action with a view to rules being laid down at European level. This could result in the establishment of a European Regulatory Authority; - clarifying certain control rules; - limiting obligations relating to transparency and accounting separation to various large organizations; - encouraging competition whilst preventing penetration of the market by inefficient players; - encouraging investment rather than physical collocation; - ensuring numbering continuity and number portability when changing supplier; - clarifying the concept of universal service in the directive, with the introduction of European legislation, and sharing the cost of universal service between all operators. A universal service must permit access to a minimum service to all users at an affordable price. The Commission was invited to come forward with a Communication forming the basis of a definition of universal service at the latest by 31 December 1996.