Audiovisual and information services: protection of minors and human dignity. Follow-up of Green Paper

1997/0329(CNS) - 13/05/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Phillip WHITEHEAD (PSE, UK) on the protection of minors in audiovisual and information services Parliament approved the recommendation as put forward by the Commission, but called for the development of common tools and more particularly common labelling of content guidelines in order to facilitate the transfrontier identification of illegal and harmful content. Stressing that the development of the audiovisual industry was dependent on the effective protection of minors, it expressed its support for strengthening cooperation at European level with a view to developing new tools and services in this area. Cooperation should also be strengthened with third countries and in particular with the applicant countries to the Union. In order to ensure a high level of protection of the general interest, it called for the strengthening of the definition of a common ethical approach to the information society. To this end, Parliament supported a systematic review of the various self-regulatory frameworks and their success in achieving the objective of providing adequate protection for minors and human dignity. It also called for regular consultations to be organized with the Member States and for an evaluation report to be submitted to Parliament and the Council within two years. This report would include inter alia an assessment of whether regulatory action was needed.