

Electronic communications: common regulatory framework for networks and services.

Framework Directive

2000/0184(COD) - 02/02/2006 - Follow-up document

The purpose of this Communication is, in accordance with Article 18 of the Framework Directive, to review the inter-operability of digital interactive television services. The review builds on earlier assessments and takes account of the market developments since July 2004. In addition it takes account of the “MHP” Implementation Group which was formed in order to act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and best practice.

The Commission states that its present priority is to work closely with the Member States in order to guarantee the successful switchover to digital T.V. – a prerequisite for having interactive digital services. A further priority is to support open standards and the on-going co-operation on inter-operability and exchange of best practice between Member States and between stakeholders. On the question of mandating a common standard, however, the Commission’s approach remains that of relying on industry-led voluntary standardisation initiatives. Such a position will ensure that innovation is not stifled. In future, the Commission’s priorities will be to:

- Work with the Member States to ensure the successful switchover to digital T.V. In other words to act as a facilitator for interactive digital services.
- Promote open standards and interoperability.
- Support co-operation between the Member States and amongst the stakeholders.
- Promote international co-operation on digital TV open standards and interoperability.
- Monitor the use of proprietary technologies.