Basic information

1995/0124(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks Repealed by 2011/0299(COD) **Subject** 3.30.20 Trans-European communications networks	

Key players

European Parliament

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	HOPPENSTEDT Karsten Friedrich (PPE)	06/04/1995
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	HOPPENSTEDT Karsten Friedrich (PPE)	06/04/1995

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	IZQUIERDO COLLADO Juan de Dios (PSE)	19/07/1995
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGI Regional Policy	HALLAM David John Alfred (PSE)	07/09/1995
TRAN Transport and Tourism		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2008	1997-05-26
Social Affairs	1948	1996-09-24
Telecommunications	1910	1996-03-21
Telecommunications	1888	1995-11-27

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
31/05/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0224	Summary
10/07/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
19/12/1995	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
19/12/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0336/1995	
01/02/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
20/03/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0108	Summary
21/03/1996	Council position published	04137/1/1996	Summary
18/04/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
26/06/1996	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
26/06/1996	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0222/1996	
16/07/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
24/09/1996	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		Summary
07/03/1997	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		Summary
07/03/1997	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		
16/04/1997	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3707/1997	
24/04/1997	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A4-0166/1997	
13/05/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
26/05/1997	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
17/06/1997	Final act signed		
17/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/07/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0124(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 2011/0299(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 129D-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/4/08273

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0336/1995 OJ C 032 05.02.1996, p. 0005	19/12/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0036/1996 OJ C 047 19.02.1996, p. 0011-0015	01/02/1996	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0222/1996 OJ C 211 22.07.1996, p. 0003	26/06/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0396/1996 OJ C 261 09.09.1996, p. 0050-0059	17/07/1996	Summary
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A4-0166/1997 OJ C 167 02.06.1997, p. 0003	24/04/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T4-0225/1997 OJ C 167 02.06.1997, p. 0044-0055	14/05/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	04137/1/1996 OJ C 134 06.05.1996, p. 0018	21/03/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0224 OJ C 302 14.11.1995, p. 0023	31/05/1995	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0108  OJ C 175 18.06.1996, p. 0004	20/03/1996	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1996)0636 	15/04/1996	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1996)0444 	17/09/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1297/1995 OJ C 039 12.02.1996, p. 0020	22/11/1995	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0020/1996 OJ C 129 02.05.1996, p. 0032	17/01/1996	Summary
	Joint text approved by Conciliation			

CSL/EP	Committee co-chairs	3707/1997	16/04/1997	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 1997/1336 OJ L 183 11.07.1997, p. 0012	Summary

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 17/09/1996 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission accepted 8 of the 26 amendments adopted by the European Parliament at second reading. The amendments introduced by the Commission in its amended proposal seek to: - recall that trans-European network projects are real-world, not experimental projects; - extend the coordination needed to all projects affected by decisions on trans-European networks; - call for coordination in order to ensure interoperability between the trans-European networks and comparable national networks; - recall that the implementation of trans-European networks will also provide experience on the social effects of these networks; - clarify the heading "teleinformation" and the heading on cultural and linguistic heritage; - emphasize the importance of developing intelligent agents and tools for personalizing applications; - propose a clearer text on the coordination of Community programmes with national programmes; - integrate a Commission declaration on the transnational nature of trans-European networks in the main body of the decision. - ensure that the Commission has projects concerning the territory of a Member State approved by the Member State in question.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 01/02/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Karsten Friedrich HOPPENSTEDT (PPE, D) the European Parliament approved the principle of trans-European telecommunications networks and the proposed guidelines, but expressed some criticism both on the strategy proposed and on the procedure suggested. The report highlights the need to: - attach particular importance to generic services in order to guarantee interoperability at European level and to avoid costly duplication; - set priorities so as to have a strategic vision of the actual medium-term objectives of the trans-European networks. Failing which, there was likely to be a proliferation of small-scale projects leading to inter-sectoral competition and a risk of inconsistency; - give priority to applications using ISDN and, in particular, Europe-ISDN; - take account of the transnational aspect for the selection of projects and attach special attention to those which had an exemplary value and could have a multiplier effect; - assess the social and societal impact of the new applications in order to help citizens and enterprises enter the Information Society; - take account of the cultural aspect, covering not only heritage, but also creation, with the use of local languages so that users can make the best possible use of the new applications. With regard to decision-making (commitology), the EP rejected the choice of a Regulatory Committee to set priorities and select projects. It proposed, therefore, the use of the Advisory Committee procedure, as was the case for the trans-European energy networks.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 22/11/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The ESC basically endorsed the Commission proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision. However, it put forward a number of comments. The ESC thought that the proposed projects should attach special importance to the social, cultural, educational and environmental issues. In these areas in particular a universal network serving as many of Europe’s citizens as possible was important. With special regard to the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector and the associated commercialisation of research and development programmes, the ESC felt that the projects should be continuously vetted by the Commission to see whether overall European-wide economic considerations were brought to bear within the framework of a modern, active and forward-looking industrial policy. The ESC thought that an annual report would be desirable. The trans-European networks marked a further step towards the social and economic modernisation of Europe. In this context, it would not be possible to find the requisite funds for investment unless: - European firms formed strong alliances that could operate on the world market as global players; - the principle of reciprocity was applied in world trade.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 17/07/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mr Karsten Friedrich HOPPENSTEDT (PPE, D) on the trans-European telecommunications networks, Parliament adopted the common position of the Council with a series of amendments which incorporated the guidelines already evolved at first reading. In particular, emphasis was laid on the development of generic services and the need to concentrate on real-world applications using the available networks and not merely demonstration projects. Parliament also proposed changes to the network priorities. To this end, it called for particular attention to be paid to Euro-ISDN networks and, where there is a real demand, to IBC networks, for transboundary interregional initiatives to be stimulated, and for action strengthening ties with third countries (the countries of the Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS etc.) to be undertaken. At the same time, Parliament called for ex-post assessment of the social consequences of the deployment of networks whenever possible. In the sphere of transport, Parliament asked for priority to be given to integrated multimodal transport and to other environment-friendly modes. With regard to teleworking, it insisted that workers' rights must be preserved and that measures should be taken to prevent the risks of social isolation that could be involved with teleworking. It also insisted that selected projects must be transnational. In addition, it called for Generic Services applications to be interoperable and asked that they use local Community languages so that all may benefit from the innovations brought by the networks. Finally, Parliament proposed that telematics and teleadministration projects should be developed so as to improve communication in the sphere of public administration. In relation to commitology, Parliament reiterated its request for an advisory committee, with which it would be associated.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 21/03/1996 - Council position

The common position of the Council largely adhered to the Commission's approach. The changes made to the original proposal mainly had the aim of taking better account of the terms of the Treaty or existing Community provisions (such as the IDA programme, the Euro-ISDN guidelines and the TEN-Transport guidelines). The Council incorporated, in whole or in part, 14 of the 22 amendments incorporated by the Commission in its amended proposal. The main amendments accepted by the Council served to: - stress the development of applications, services and networks to enable citizens and enterprises (especially SMEs) to position themselves to best advantage in the information society, drawing attention to the less developed regions; - stress the importance of Euro-ISDN as a means of communication which can already be used to carry out common-interest projects; - recall the need to coordinate trans-European projects with comparable national or regional initiatives; - propose a more concise wording for the designation of infrastructure available for the implementation of projects; - take up the idea that the implementation of trans-European networks should meet real needs, and detail the RTD programmes with which they should be coordinated; - stress needs not met by market forces alone (projects of collective interest); - specify the nature of the work programme drafted by the Commission; - state that the new networks, whether fixed or mobile, could be used for generic services; - devote special attention to the social consequences of teleworking; - add further details regarding cultural and linguistic heritage (inserting the artistic aspect of heritage and the aspect 'dissemination of local content in local languages'). The Council was unable to accept the EP's amendments seeking to: - stress the need to use in synergetic fashion all forms of aid which could support TEN activities; - stress the importance of having non-proprietary tools for the development of applications; - add to the point on 'distance education and training' (defining vocational training policy); - add to the point on 'telematics and transport' elements which the EP regarded as having priority; - add further details to the point on 'telematics services for the job market'; - insert clearly the transnational character of projects.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 17/01/1996 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

The Committee of the Regions: - in referring to the opinions already expressed, underlined the crucial significance of local actions associated with the information society, especially as regards the creation of new job and those efforts directed at reducing the disparities that tended to affect citizens following the introduction of new instruments. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity the Community should therefore support local innovation and refrain from making generalised definitions as to the content of the applications, especially when it came to the planning and implementation of applications relating to the information society. - expressed its concerns about the fact that the partitioning effect of the financial instruments could in certain cases disunite the regions instead of promoting their mutual cohesion, which was the ultimate objective of the exercise. - took the view, in response to opinions expressed in the report on the role of the Community, that as far as cohesion at regional level was concerned there was a need for greater use to be made of EU expertise in the field of projects relating to the information society, especially if their theme or content had a trans-European character. - supported the objective of extending the activities of the ISPO (Information Society Project Office) to the Member States and to the regions. Indeed, their effectiveness as sources of information and as coordinators for the different parties made them particularly well suited to the role envisaged by the Commission within the Community. - believed that it was extremely important to have a presentation of the position of the applications within the trans-European telecommunications networks, given that the impact of their subject matter continued to increase. - The Committee was keen to learn from the important lessons drawn from local and regional networks, which combined citizens, SMEs and the public offices. As the links forged with the network, and especially with the bordering networks and local services, were often essential in the eyes of the consumer, the Committee hoped that quickening the pace at which solutions were developed – and the Interregional Information Society Initiative (IRISI) was a good example of this – would take precedence over the development of other types of application. The importance of having centres for developing and providing multimedia services on a regional scale needed to be taken into consideration. The success of regional projects would stimulate demand for increasing the development of other applications and of an infrastructure of the type described by the Commission. - From among the main fields of application the existence of the internet had to be taken into consideration for the development of a trans-European network serving the universities and research institutes, for as far as these establishments were concerned the objectives were practically achieved. - hoped that the call for proposals for applications of collective interest would define the services envisaged in such a way that prospective customers would understand the contents without ambiguity. - as far as basic networks were concerned the Committee drew special attention to the development of EURO-ISDN,

the growth of the supply sector and the greater degree of stability, thanks to which the cost of terminal equipment using this technology would continue to fall and therefore would come within the range of a growing number of users. - stressed the importance of developing broadband wireless networks, especially in those regions where it was not practical to invest in hardwire systems for geographical reasons and so forth. - The Committee hoped that the reports would take account of regional development and of the differences that existed. It appeared to be more equitable to present the general situation of networks serving the information society and of trans-European networks on the basis of the less-favoured regions, rather than on those that were well developed.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 15/04/1996 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission accepted the common position, which it felt was consistent with the original aims of the proposal. However, it pointed out that it had called for a declaration to be included in the minutes on two points which the Council had not supported, namely the use of all forms of aid to support TEN activities and a clear statement on the transnational nature of the projects. In the Commission's view, there was no reason why these principles should not be considered when the decision was being implemented.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 20/03/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

The amended proposal incorporated, in whole or in part, 22 of the 35 amendments adopted by the EP at first reading. The amendments accepted by the Commission: - called for special attention for SMEs and less developed or peripheral regions; - underlined the importance of the Euro-ISDN; - stressed coordination with other initiatives; - stressed applications corresponding to real needs not met by market forces: these corresponded to the applications of collective interest for which priority was proposed; - brought the text of the proposal closer to the wording of the Treaty; - clarified the real nature of the work programme being prepared by the Commission at this stage; - stressed the importance of providing non-proprietary tools for development of new applications; - drew attention to important social aspects of teleworking; - added to the points on 'distance education and training', telematics and transport, telematics services for the job market, and cultural and linguistic heritage. The Commission also accepted in principle the amendments: - stressing the need for coordination of Community programmes: it stated that effective coordination needed to be ensured between the implementation of the trans-European telecommunications networks, which must address real-world concerns, excluding experimental projects, and the various Community programmes (specific RTD programmes, programmes for SMEs, INFO 2000, Media 2); - mentioning the need to use, on a synergetic basis, all appropriate forms of aid for TEN activities; - inserting a clear definition of the transnational nature of the projects: it stated that projects must be transnational in the sense that they should be conceived to satisfy needs existing in several Member States and to be implemented in several Member States.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 31/05/1995 - Legislative proposal

The proposal for a decision aimed to lay down guidelines on the objectives, priorities and main areas of action proposed in the field of trans-European telecommunications networks. The creation of trans-European telecommunications networks had four objectives: - facilitating the transition towards the information society, in particular with a view to satisfying social needs and improving the quality of life; - improving the competitiveness of firms and strengthening the internal market; - strengthening economic and social cohesion; - accelerating the development of new growth-area activities leading to job creation (e.g. multimedia services and electronic information services). The Commission proposed implementing European action in this sector at three levels: the applications layer, the generic services layer and the basic networks layer. The main priorities were as follows: - Applications: a network linking universities and research centres; distance education; health telematics; transport telematics; telematics for the environment; teleworking; telematic services for SMEs; a network for public administrations; electronic procedures for the award of contracts; city information highways; library access services; telematic services for the job market; cultural and linguistic heritage; access for citizens to services; - Generic services: implementation of operational trans-European generic services (electronic mail, file transfers, access to databases, video services); progressive extension of generic services towards a multimedia environment; introduction of non-proprietary digital signature as a basis for open service provision and mobility of use; - Basic networks: ISDN; commercial introduction of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and other IBC networks; interoperation of existing and IBC networks. The Union's action would involve the selection of several projects of common interest which could benefit from financial support. These projects of common interest would be selected in successive stages: - the Commission would establish a work programme, in cooperation with sector operators, with a view to determining the sectors in which projects of common interest could be proposed; - on the basis of this programme, it would launch calls for proposals; - the Commission would select the projects of common interest from among the proposals, assisted by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States; - the list of projects retained would be subject to a Council decision. The initiatives for projects should be submitted by the private sector or by an association between the public and private sectors and should address users' needs. Community funding would be largely targeted at the field of applications, and particularly those applications of collective interest.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 17/06/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to lay down guidelines on the objectives, priorities and main thrust of the measures proposed in the field of trans-European telecommunications networks. COMMUNITY MEASURE: European Parliament and Council Decision 1336/97/EC on a package of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks. CONTENT: under the terms of the decision, the Community is to grant financial support for the

interconnection of networks in the field of telecommunications infrastructures, for the establishment and development of interoperable services and applications and for access to the latter, with the following objectives: - to facilitate the transition to the information society, primarily with a view to meeting social needs and improving the quality of life; - to improve competition between undertakings and to strengthen the internal market; - to reinforce economic and social cohesion; - to accelerate the development of activities in the new growth sectors of job creation (such as multimedia and electronic information services). The following priorities have been accepted: - Applications : network linking universities and research centres; distance learning; telematics and health; telematics and transport; telematics and the environment; teleworking; telematics in the service of SMEs; networks for public administration; electronic tendering procedures; urban information highways; library access services; telematic services for the job market; cultural and linguistic heritage; - Generic services : installation of generic trans-European services (electronic mail, file transfer, access to data bases, video services); gradual extension of generic services to a multimedia environment; introduction of the non-specific electronic signatures as a basis for the supply of open services and mobile applications; - Basic network: ISDN; commercial introduction of ATM networks (asynchronous transfer mode) and other wide-band networks; interconnection of existing networks and wide-band communication networks; development of fixed, mobile and satellite networks; The decision provides for an exhaustive list of priority projects to be drawn up from among those of common interest. This comprises generic services (European directories, trans-European 'kiosks', electronic signatures, etc.), applications of collective interest in the field of distance learning, services to SMEs and telematics in the fields of transport, the environment, health and culture. The applications must take account of linguistic needs and the specific needs of less developed regions. They must target user groups which are as large as possible and demonstrate ways in which citizens can access services of collective interest.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 24/09/1996

The Council declared that it was not in a position to take over all of Parliament’s amendments to the common position of 21 March 1996 relating to the decision in question. The Conciliation Committee would therefore be convened under the terms of the codecision procedure (Article 189b of the Treaty).

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 27/11/1995

The Council reached preliminary agreement on a common position on the proposal for a decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalise its common position, once the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions had delivered their opinions, so that it could be adopted as an ‘A’ item at a forthcoming meeting. The Decision lays down guidelines identifying, *inter alia*, projects of common interest likely to be eligible for Community financial support. Thus the Community would support the interconnection of the networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure, the establishment and the development of interoperable services and applications as well as access to them as required for the development of the information society. Those actions would be carried out with the general objectives of: - facilitating the transition towards the Information Society, in particular to promote satisfaction of social and cultural needs and to improve the quality of life; - improving the competitiveness of European industry, in particular SMEs, and strengthening the development of the internal market; - strengthening economic and social cohesion, taking account in particular of the need to link island, land-locked and peripheral regions to the central regions of the Community; - accelerating the development of new growth area activities leading to job creation.

Series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

1995/0124(COD) - 14/05/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading

In adopting the report by Mr Karsten Friedrich HOPPENSTEDT (PPE, D), the European Parliament accepted the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee on trans-European telecommunications networks. The agreement stipulated that the networks could take various forms, including, for example, networks linking universities and research centres or those capable of linking, on a Community scale, all those involved in the health sector (doctors, hospitals, laboratories etc.). On the technical side, Parliament obtained satisfaction on a number of points: - concentration solely on real applications making use of networks which are available and can be used by broad sections of the general public; - assessment of the social consequences of the deployment of networks (e.g. with regard to teleworking); - the transnational character of projects to be guaranteed; - account to be taken of the linguistic needs and specific requirements of less developed regions; - in the cultural sphere, action should not be confined to preserving the heritage but should also promote creative work. The agreement also provided for the drawing-up of an exhaustive list of those of the common-interest projects which it was felt should enjoy a certain priority. These are generic services (European directories, a trans-European 'kiosk', electronic signature, etc.), applications of distance learning of public interest, services to SMEs, telematics services for transport, environment, health and culture. Following protracted negotiations, the agreement also included satellite communications as a common-interest project. Lastly, as regards institutional questions, the solution allows the Commission the elbow-room and flexibility which will be vital when issuing calls for tenders. Common-interest projects are identified in Annex I to the text. The annex is to be reviewed, using the codecision procedure, after three years. However, the actual projects will be selected by a committee on the basis of a work programme drawn up by the Commission.