

Basic information	
<b>1995/0263(CNS)</b> CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)  <b>Subject</b> 3.30.25.02 Information programmes and action plans 4.40.08 Language learning, regional and local languages	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets	THEATO Diemut R. (PPE)	24/01/1996
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	EWING Winifred M. (ARE)	21/02/1996
	<b>ENER</b> Research, Technological Development and Energy	MACARTNEY Allan (ARE)	06/02/1996
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	SCHAFFNER Anne-Marie (UPE)	24/01/1996
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	1965	1996-11-21
	Industry	1953	1996-10-08
	Telecommunications	1941	1996-06-27

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/11/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0486	<a href="#">Summary</a>
11/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/1996	Vote in committee		<a href="#">Summary</a>
23/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0148/1996</a>	
20/06/1996	Debate in Parliament		
27/06/1996	Debate in Council		

02/10/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0456 	<a href="#">Summary</a>
21/11/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		<a href="#">Summary</a>
21/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/11/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/0263(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 130-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/4/07692

Documentation gateway				
<b>European Parliament</b>				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0148/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0005	23/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0372/1996 OJ C 198 08.07.1996, p. 0239-0245	21/06/1996	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>European Commission</b>				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal		COM(1995)0486 OJ C 364 04.12.1996, p. 0005	08/11/1995	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1996)0456  OJ C 364 04.12.1996, p. 0011	02/10/1996	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Follow-up document		COM(2001)0276 	28/05/2001	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>Other institutions and bodies</b>				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0692/1996 OJ C 212 22.07.1996, p. 0019	29/05/1996	<a href="#">Summary</a>
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0220/1996 OJ C 337 11.11.1996, p. 0045	12/06/1996	

#### Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>	

#### Final act

[Decision 1996/0664](#)  
[OJ L 306 28.11.1996, p. 0040](#)

[Summary](#)

## Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)

1995/0263(CNS) - 21/06/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Nana MOUSKOURI (PPE, Gr), Parliament approved the general approach of the programme while at the same time tabling nearly 60 amendments to the Commission proposal, primarily with a view to enhancing the programme's cultural dimension. In order to defend this cultural dimension, the report proposes that the legal basis of the programme should not just be Article 130 of the EC Treaty (industrial competitiveness) but also Article 128 (cultural dimension). Parliament's amendments also emphasized the need to: - attach as much importance to the social aspect of the information society as to the economic interest (everyone must be provided with access to multimedia); - bring out the cultural and linguistic wealth and diversity of the Community; - protect and support the minority languages and ensure their survival in the multilingual information society; - support the SMEs involved in the multimedia market; - use the Structural Funds to help protect the linguistic heritage; - supplement the programme with foundation-laying action to expand the teaching of Community languages in schools. Parliament also called for the programme's total financial allocation to be raised from ECU 15 m to ECU 20 m (including 5 million for the revision of the financial perspective). Other amendments reflect the EP's concerns about commitment.

## Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)

1995/0263(CNS) - 21/11/1996

The Council formally adopted the programme.

## Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)

1995/0263(CNS) - 02/10/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

The amended proposal incorporates, in full or in part, 34 out of the 56 amendments adopted by Parliament as regards the main alterations to the initial proposal. The Commission has accepted the amendments which: - are consistent with the views expressed in the Commission communication (MLIS - multilingual information society); - are consistent with Community policies and improve cohesion, synergy, transparency, and management; - clarify the proposal and make it more explicit. Some of the amendments (22 in all) could not be accepted because: - they sought to change the legal basis; - they were inconsistent with the subsidiarity principle; - they could not be financed by the funds available in the budget.

## Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)

1995/0263(CNS) - 29/05/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee approves and endorses the objectives set out in the Commission proposal, but would however like the Commission, the Council and the Parliament to note that, in order to respect the terms of the Treaty regarding the economic and social cohesion of the EU more attention and action

is required. There is a need for specific provision to be made allowing the majority of European citizens rapidly to master two or three Community languages, in particular by strengthening learning at school, which remains the principal means of language learning. The usefulness of a shared working language entails the risk of linguistic standardization and excessive simplification produced by the dilution or loss of cultural values rooted in, and transmitted by, various languages which are gradually being pushed back.

## **Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)**

1995/0263(CNS) - 21/11/1996 - Final act

Further to the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 8 October 1996, the Council formally adopted the multiannual programme.

## **Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)**

1995/0263(CNS) - 28/05/2001 - Follow-up document

The Commission Communication examines the multi-annual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of the Community in the information society (MLIS). MLIS was set up in 1996 and was designed to run for a three year period. It was allocated a budget of EUR 15 million and since its inception has co-financed 35 projects involving nearly 190 organisations. Under current restructuring plans, MLIS will be incorporated, along with INFO 2000 objectives, into the new eContent programme. The following action lines for MLIS were established: - To support the creation of a framework of services for European language resources; - To encourage the use of modern language technologies, resources and standards; - To promote the use of advanced language tools in the Community and member States' public sector. The evaluators report concludes that whilst expectations are high, both amongst programme co-ordinators and those on the ground, the limited budget available for the MLIS programme has hindered its full potential. It was also noted that many of the projects remain incomplete and will need to be reassessed under the objectives of the new eContent programme. MLIS projects were further overshadowed by the existence of other EU linguistic programmes - notably in the field of the Fifth Framework programme. In light of past experience the assessment report proposes nine recommendations, which the Commission Communication agrees to take on board. Most importantly it proposes the establishment of an EU language policy framework, the establishment of a co-ordinated language based website incorporating all of the EU's multi-media linguistic programmes and the establishment of value for money benchmarks when evaluating future projects.

## **Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)**

1995/0263(CNS) - 08/10/1996

The Council approved a Community Programme. It will be formally adopted as an A-Point at a forthcoming session.

## **Information society: multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe (MLIS)**

1995/0263(CNS) - 08/11/1995 - Legislative proposal

- OBJECTIVE: to adopt a multiannual Community programme for three years (1996-1998) which aims: - to promote the use of technologies, tools and methods which reduce the cost of information transfer between languages and the development of multilingual services; - to provide support for language-based industries; - to encourage the development of multilingual services; - to promote the linguistic diversity of the Community in the global information society; - SUBSTANCE: The main objectives of the new programme proposed by the Commission are: - to provide support for shaping the infrastructure of European linguistic resources and to stimulate the parties concerned; - to mobilize and strengthen language-based industries by promoting the use of modern language technologies and tools and their integration in IT applications; - to promote the use of advanced language tools in the EU public sector; - to provide support for accompanying measures (strategic consultation meetings with market operators, strategic studies and surveys, standardization, promotion activities and awareness campaigns, and the exchange of best practices). - The Community's financial involvement in shared-cost projects is usually 50%. - The Commission will be assisted by an advisory committee.