Basic information

1995/0274(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action Amended by 2000/0020(COD) **Subject** 3.30.03.06 Communications by satellite	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	HOPPENSTEDT Karsten Friedrich (PPE)	28/11/1995

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	HOPPENSTEDT Karsten Friedrich (PPE)	28/11/1995

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	MALERBA Franco E. (UPE)	16/01/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	1978	1996-12-09
Telecommunications	1991	1997-03-06
Telecommunications	1949	1996-09-27
Telecommunications	1888	1995-11-27
Telecommunications	1910	1996-03-21

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/11/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0529	Summary
27/11/1995	Debate in Council		
28/11/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
21/03/1996	Debate in Council		
30/05/1996	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
30/05/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0179/1996	
18/06/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
14/10/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0467	Summary
06/12/1996	Council position published	10698/1/1996	Summary
12/12/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
17/02/1997	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
17/02/1997	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0050/1997	
20/02/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
06/03/1997	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
24/03/1997	Final act signed		
24/03/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0274(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 2000/0020(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 066 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 100A EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 057
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/08501

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0179/1996 OJ C 198 08.07.1996, p. 0004	30/05/1996	

Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0339/1996 OJ C 198 08.07.1996, p. 0068-0093	19/06/1996	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0050/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0014	17/02/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0052/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0099-0113	20/02/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	10698/1/1996 OJ C 041 10.02.1997, p. 0037	06/12/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0529 OJ C 015 20.01.1996, p. 0006	08/11/1995	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0467 OJ C 350 21.11.1996, p. 0014	14/10/1996	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1996)2284	09/12/1996	
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1997)0101	05/03/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0528/1996 OJ C 204 15.07.1996, p. 0008	24/04/1996	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1997/0710
OJ L 105 23.04.1997, p. 0004 Summary

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 20/02/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mr Karsten HOPPENSTEDT (EPP, D) Parliament approved almost unchanged the Council's common position on a coordinated authorization approach in the field of satellite personal-communication services in the Community. Parliament's amendments concern only the timetable: they seek to move work on mandates on harmonization for the frequency bands and their operation from March/April to July 1997 and the harmonization of procedures for the authorization of systems planning to operate in the frequency bands from July to September 1997.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 14/10/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission's amended proposal on a common framework for the harmonized development of satellite personal communications services in the Community incorporated 9 of the 22 amendments adopted by the European Parliament. The main changes made by the Commission were as follows: - a change to the title such as to present the purpose of the proposed measure in a different way; - changes to the text to take account of the difficulty of determining the timing of the decision, and in recognition of the need for urgent action; - emphasis on the harmonized promotion of S-PCS; - making it clear that one of the objectives of action is to ensure that common conditions are attached to national authorizations for satellite PCS space segment operators; - insertion of a reference to the proposal for a Directive on a common framework for general authorizations and individual licences in the field of telecommunications services; - provision for negotiations with third countries with the aim of allocating access to space segment in the light of the interests of all the countries concerned; - insertion of a reference to the Telecommunications Committee set up by the proposal for a Directive on a common framework for general authorizations and individual licences in the field of telecommunications services; - a call on the Council to draw up, by 31/12/1996, a common position on the allocation of the frequencies necessary for S-PCS and, if necessary, to give the Commission a mandate to negotiate within the relevant international bodies concerning access to space segment and the obligations to be attached to authorizations for space segment operators. The Commission did not accept the amendments concerning the following points: selection of space segment operators for S-PCS and alignment with the general Directive on licensing; the distinction between mobile and fixed satellite services; the advisory committee; trial licences and public meetings of the committee.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 08/11/1995 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision establishing a common market for satellite personal-communication services through coordinated action at European Union level regarding selection and authorisation on the basis of harmonised conditions and criteria. SUBSTANCE: * The aim of the action is to guarantee within three years: - the selection of space-segment operators for satellite personal-communication services (PCS); - the adoption of common conditions for granting authorisations for satellite PCS space-segment operators; - the harmonisation of conditions linked to authorisations; - the establishment of dialogue and, where necessary, negotiations between the Union and third countries, with a view to establishing international cooperation aimed at promoting the development of satellite personal-communication services and eliminating any obstacles to their development; * Firstly, a call for expressions of interest will be published in the Official Journal within six months of the adoption of the decision. This will define the common selection criteria for each category of service, the selection procedures and the principles governing the common conditions on which authorisations will be granted; * The Commission may call upon European standardisation bodies (ETSI, CEN/Cenelec, ERC and Ectra) to consider the necessary harmonised criteria and conditions on the basis of mandates granted in accordance with the framework agreements concluded with these bodies; * The Commission, assisted by both an advisory and a regulatory committee, will take decisions on: - the common conditions for granting authorisations for the selected space-segment operators for satellite personal-communication services; - the harmonised conditions to be applied when granting authorisation to providers of satellite personal-communication services and uplink operators, and, where necessary, to the movement and use of equipment; - any other measures aimed at facilitating the development of satellite personal-communication services; * As regards the international aspects, the Commission follows developments outside the EC and consults third countries on the introduction of satellite personal-communication services at global level. Whenever appropriate, the Commission will enter into negotiations with third countries on these issues; * The annex to the draft decision contains a timetable of the measures to be taken under the auspices of Community action by March 1997.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 24/03/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to facilitate the rapid introduction of compatible satellite personal-communication services (S-PCS) in the Community on the basis of the principles of the internal market, in accordance within a comparable time-frame and by means of a coordinated approach. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Decision 710/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on a coordinated authorization approach in the field of satellite personal-communication services in the Community. SUBSTANCE: the Decision concerns the adoption of harmonized conditions for the granting of authorization for satellite personal-communication services. It assigns an important role to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), on which it confers a mandate to harmonize by September 1997 the frequencies and authorization conditions for S-PCS. However, the Decision makes it possible to take decisions at Community level if the work of the CEPT does not progress satisfactorily. If it proves necessary to limit the number of authorizations for S-PCS, because of the limited nature of the frequency spectrum available, Member States are to coordinate their authorization procedures with the aim of authorizing the same services throughout the Community. The Decision

also lays down the role of the Commission in the one-stop shopping procedure applicable to general authorizations and individual licences. As regards commitology, a type II(b) regulatory committee is to deal with most issues, while an advisory committee will deal with mandates conferred on the CEPT. As regards international aspects, if Community organizations encounter difficulties with regard to the introduction of S-PCS in third countries, the Commission may make proposals to the Council with the aim of securing a mandate to negotiate with the third countries in question. ENTRY INTO FORCE: from 13/05/1997 to 13/05/2000.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 27/09/1996

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on the common position.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 19/06/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Karsten HOPPENSTEDT (PPE, D) on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision on an action at Union level in the field of satellite personal communications services in the European Union. While the report is at one with the Commission's concern to arrive at a harmonized Community approach as early as possible, it rejects the idea of a selection of satellite PCS space segment operators and the granting of licences by the Commission, on the basis that there would only be a small number of global competitors in this sector. While respecting the national competence for granting licences the report proposes that a harmonized Community approach should be included in the 'licences directive' framework, while extending harmonization concerns to the individual licences. Concerning the international aspect, the EP called on the Council to draw up, by 31 December 1996, a common position on the allocation of the frequencies necessary for the operation of S-PCS, and if necessary to give the Commission a mandate to negotiate within the relevant international bodies, particularly the International Telecommunications Union, and, where appropriate, with relevant third countries with a view to establishing the conditions of access to space segment and the obligations to be attached to authorizations for space segment operators.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 06/12/1996 - Council position

The common position, whilst retaining the overall objective of the Commission to facilitate the rapid introduction of satellite personal communications services (PCS) in the Community, constitutes a substantial shift in approach from that envisaged by the Commission, reflecting the broad lines of the common position on the Licencing Directive. The main changes of substance to the proposal concern the following points: - the scope of the decision is limited to facilitating the rapid introduction of compatible satellite PCS in the Community, rather than establishing the principle of specific action at Community level; - the article relating to definitions is deleted; - rather than establishing a selection process for space segment operators, the common position places the emphasis on the adoption of harmonized conditions for authorizations of satellite PCS; - the common position accords an important role to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), since it awards it a mandate to harmonize frequency use and conditions attached to authorizations for satellite PCS. The common position does, however, provide for the possibility of action at Community level, through a regulatory committee procedure where work within CEPT is not progressing at a satisfactory pace; - the Commission's role in the operation of the one-stop shopping procedure for general authorizations and individual licences is clarified; - with regard to commitology, provision is made for a II(B) type regulatory committee procedure for most matters, as well as an advisory committee in relation to the mandates for the CEPT; - as regards international aspects, the Commission may, where Community organizations encounter difficulties in third countries, submit proposals to the Council for a negotiating mandate with the third countries in question.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 24/04/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee welcomes Commission work. Although the European Union is being left behind in certain aspects of this important sector, there are clearly opportunities for European telecommunication operators and industry to participate in the roll-out of SPCS services. However it asks the Commission to clarify: - keys aspects of the Proposal which are considered open to differing interpretations; - how it intends to proceed in those areas where it has a role and especially in the achievement of a coordinated approach by Member States.

Satellite personal communication services in the Union: Community action

1995/0274(COD) - 05/03/1997 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission accepted without change the amendment adopted by the European Parliament at second reading. This amendment proposes a realistic timetable in order to prevent the decision from being adopted after the activities provided for in it have been finalized.