Basic information

1995/2261(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Telecommunications: future development of the market in directories and other information services **Subject** 3.30.03 Telecommunications, data transmission, telephone	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	CASSIDY Bryan M.D. (PPE)	28/11/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights	READ Imelda Mary (PSE)	21/03/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Telecommunications	1910	1996-03-21

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/09/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0431	Summary
24/10/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/03/1996	Debate in Council		
25/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0141/1996	
21/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		

22/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/06/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2261(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/07157

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0141/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0004	25/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0246/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0056-0106	22/05/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0431	18/09/1995	Summary

Telecommunications: future development of the market in directories and other information services

1995/2261(COS) - 22/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Bryan CASSIDY (PPE, UK), the European Parliament supported the liberalization of the market in directories, while insisting on respect for privacy and setting out certain procedures and conditions for liberalization. Parliament drew attention to the following points: - the need to offer adequate protection to consumers and to provide, where the operator has recorded data incorrectly, for the consumer to be compensated for any loss of income and any resultant inconvenience; - protecting consumers from misuse of directory information for criminal purposes; - the option for consumers, free of charge, to withhold their details from public directories or to restrict the use of that information for commercial purposes; - the option for consumers to be given access to the telephone numbers of subscribers in a particular area, even if more than one operator is present; telephone subscribers should be entitled to have free printed copies of their local "white pages" and "yellow pages"; - the telephone directories of the various telecommunications operators should contain the telephone and other telecommunication numbers of each other's subscribers. Parliament also called for: - all operators who planned to be present on the directories' market and other telecommunications information services to contribute to the provision of universal services; - new entrants into the directories market to be given access on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms to the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all telephone customers and for existing operators not to be able to abuse their dominant positions by charging unreasonable prices for the information provided; - the development of pan-European directory and enquiry services either in printed form or in the form of interoperable data bases, and the development of a pan-European directory enquiries number system; - telephone subscribers to be

listed in directories free of charge, including the name of their spouse or partner living with them, if they so request; - directory enquiry services to be made available at a nominal charge or on a "cost-plus" basis. Parliament also called for innovative services, such as the French Minitel electronic directory, to be extended to other Member States.

Telecommunications: future development of the market in directories and other information services

1995/2261(COS) - 18/09/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the Commission communication aims to set out guidelines for the future development of the market in directories, give that directory enquiry services will play an essential role for the use of telecommunications services in a competitive environment. CONTENT: the Commission stresses that directories are an important medium (7.5% of the advertising market in the EU) and that they are the most important access route to telecommunications services. In addition, thanks to new technologies, especially interactive services such as videotex, the sector was only now entering the multimedia sector and could help considerably in developing this new market. The introduction of a competitive environment in the telecommunications sector means that Community telecommunications rules need to be extended to directory and information services. It also means that a universal directory needs to be maintained, together with an information service which is easily accessible to and affordable by all users. Consequently, the Commission proposes the following guidelines for developing this sector: - maintaining a universal directory and a directory enquiries service in a competitive environment: users of voice telephony services should be given at least one complete "white pages" directory in each Member State and should be able to access an information service at an affordable price; - abolishing exclusive and special rights on the telecommunications directories market contained in certain national regulations; - access and marketing conditions: access to raw data on subscribers should be granted on the basis of objective, transparent, non-discriminatory criteria. In addition, access should comply with Community legislation on competition rules, the provision of an open network and protection of personal data and privacy; - promotion of new technologies (electronic directory, CD-ROM and X500 service) and promotion of multimedia; - protection of privacy: protection of personal data should be guaranteed during the provision of directory services; - protection of intellectual property rights: the benefit of national and Community provisions on copyright should be extended to directories.