Basic information

1996/2199(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Learning in the information society: action plan for a European education initiative 1996-1998 **Subject** 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee for opinion**	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	HOLM Ulf (V)	06/02/1997
	FEMM Women's Rights	VAN DIJK Nel B.M. (V)	20/03/1997
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/03/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0120	
02/10/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0471	Summary
23/10/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/05/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
22/05/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0200/1997	
25/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		
26/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/07/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2199(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	CULT/4/08286

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0200/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0004	22/05/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0355/1997 OJ C 222 21.07.1997, p. 0014-0048	26/06/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0120	26/03/1996	
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1996)1426	23/07/1996	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0471	02/10/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0368/1996 OJ C 116 14.04.1997, p. 0089	15/01/1997	

Learning in the information society: action plan for a European education initiative 1996-1998

1996/2199(COS) - 26/06/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In its adoption of the report by Mrs Birgitta AHLQVIST (PSE, S), Parliament welcomes the Commission's action plan for a European Education Initiative, and calls for the inclusion at all levels of compulsory education, irrespective of the type of school and the level of qualification concerned, of basic instruction in the use of information and communication technologies, with a view to preparing young people for the requirements of the labour market, ensuring equality of opportunity and preventing social exclusion. Parliament stresses the importance of equipment in information and communication technologies on a large scale (including in peripheral regions and regions with low population densities), and reiterates its desire to see all schools given access to information technologies and developments in distance learning techniques. It deplores the fact that existing programmes are aimed exclusively at young people when the information society and the development of the new information and communication technologies is a matter that concerns all of society, irrespective of age or origin (including persons with disabilities and socially excluded adults). Parliament insists that the Commission's action plan should recognize that schools, libraries and neighbourhood centres can provide learning bases for young people from disadvantaged groups, thus preventing the emergence of a new gap between 'those who know and those who do not know'. Priority should be targeted on those members of the public who have the least opportunities of access. Parliament draws attention to the use of the new technologies for leisure

purposes, and calls for the encouragement of positive measures aimed at: - avoiding gender stereotypes in the context of the use and development of multimedia content; - empowering girls from an early age to make use of information technology; - providing positive role-models for girls in the development of the information society. Parliament suggests the adoption of innovatory measures to encourage children in the information society, and calls for access for schools to information and communications technologies under special conditions in the context of a universal telecommunications service. Parliament calls on the Member States to fix quantitative targets for the introduction of new technologies in schools and access to those technologies, and asks the Community to coordinate exchanges of experiences by using the Internet as an information tool in relation to Member State initiatives. Parliament calls for the development of a European software and multimedia industry, which recognises and reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe, suggests the creation of a specific budget heading to fund translation of the best educational software and multimedia products to be developed each year, and calls on the Commission to encourage the production and distribution of high-quality teaching materials. Also stressed is the need for suitable basic training for teachers and for schools to be encouraged to link up in groups and organization so that they can benefit from economies of scale in hardware and software purchases. Parliament calls on the Commission and the Member States to step up the exchange at European level of information and experience on enhancing the educational use of audiovisual material in schools and speed up the dissemination of research findings in the field. In addition, Parliament calls for a thorough reform of the education system with a view to developing opportunities enabling parents and teachers to improve their knowledge; multimedia should be included in the curriculum at all levels and in teacher education. Parliament welcomes the initiative taken by the Member States to set up a Europe-wide school data network, and calls on the Commission to encourage the creation of networks linking schools to each other and to universities. It supports the principle of private-public partnerships, and advocates a code of conduct to ensure that schools on the geographical or social periphery are not disadvantaged. It also calls on the Commission to increase its efforts to combat content harmful to young people. Parliament considers that budgetary constraints should not lead to funding going only to the already most technologically-advanced schools, thus contributing to the creation of an elite of schools; in addition, all of the 'European Schools' should be networked, as rapidly as possible. Finally, Parliament calls for the ongoing evaluation of the Commission's action plan, and calls on the Member States to publish regular progress reports on the introduction of the new technologies in schools, educational establishments and libraries.

Learning in the information society: action plan for a European education initiative 1996-1998

1996/2199(COS) - 02/10/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE : The purpose of this communication is to define the main thrust of a Community action plan on 'learning in the Information Society', to be implemented between 1996 and 1998, with three objectives: - to accelerate schools' entry into the Information Society; - to encourage widespread application of multimedia; - to reinforce the European dimension of education and training with the tools of the Information Society. SUBSTANCE: In order to achieve these three objectives, the plan will pursue four additional lines of action; it will: - encourage the interconnection of school networks at a Community level. this 'network of networks' will be open to all schools' networks, existing or in the pipeline, and to geographically isolated or socially disadvantaged schools. Multimedia discovery classes will also be set up; - stimulate the development and dissemination of content of European interest which can be used for educational purposes by: .setting up a high-level working group to explore the opportunities for cooperation in the production of general-interest educational content (learning of languages, science, culture and European civilization, arts, music, etc.) and to define the methods for disseminating such content, from both a technical and legal point of view; .supporting the drawing-up by the Commission of an inventory of European multimedia products which can be used for teaching; .supporting the creation of electronic networks of multimedia resource centres (mediatheques, teacher training centres, 'digital libraries', etc.); - promote training for teachers and trainers in the use of new technologies: Training will cover the use of tools (equipment, services and software), on-line searching for information and structuring information obtained from various networks. It will also cover the design and distribution of multimedia teaching materials. Measures are planned to: .step up training activities under Community programmes (exchanges of teachers between European schools, familiarization of the least experienced teachers with using multimedia, distance learning courses), .set up a network of training centres for teachers and trainers to be built upon local, national and Community initiatives; - inform those concerned about the educational opportunities afforded by new technologies: .creation of a platform for the exchange of information accessible on the Internet offering a guide to the various Internet sites presenting projects in progress in the Community and the Member States and will make it easier to obtain information on schools' networks, available software, etc., .campaigns to raise the awareness of teachers who are still unaware of the opportunities offered by multimedia: brochures, radio broadcasts and conferences. As regards the resources for this initiative, the Commission will take advantage of the complementarity between existing Community instruments and national instruments in the same field, in particular Community programmes such as 'Telematics Applications', 'Information Technologies', Media II, Socrates and Leonardo and the funds allocated to the trans-European telecommunications networks. The initiative will also encourage utilization of the opportunities offered by the Structural Funds in the education and training sector and the funds intended for the promotion of the Information Society. At the same time, activities will be launched to involve and promote public/private partnerships. Such partnerships will in particular study the best means of financing investment in equipment in educational establishments. A workshop will be organized at the beginning of 1997 to encourage such partnerships by signing Memoranda of Understanding. The workshop will also examine the possibility of setting up a European body, in the shape of a foundation, to act as a point of reference and dialogue between actors at the European level. In order to raise the awareness of schools themselves, two types of event will be organized: - 'Action Days or Weekends for School Networking', to review the state of play with regard to the electronic networking of schools, - a European award scheme for the best educational multimedia products (with the attribution of a European label) created in partnership between young people and teachers.