Basic information

1997/2128(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Mobile and wireless communications UMTS: strategy and policy orientations **Subject** 3.30.05 Electronic and mobile communications, personal communications	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	CAMISÓN ASENSIO Felipe (PPE)	02/07/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	MATIKAINEN-KALLSTRÖM Marjo (PPE)	19/06/1997
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Telecommunications	2054	1997-12-01
Telecommunications	2021	1997-06-27

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/05/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0217	Summary
13/06/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/06/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
01/12/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
21/01/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
21/01/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0027/1998	

28/01/1998	Debate in Parliament		
29/01/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/02/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2128(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/4/09003

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0027/1998 OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0004	21/01/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0058/1998 OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0014-0042	29/01/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0217	29/05/1997	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1997)0513	15/10/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1402/1997 OJ C 073 09.03.1998, p. 0109	11/12/1997	Summary

Mobile and wireless communications UMTS: strategy and policy orientations

1997/2128(COS) - 29/05/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to stimulate debate concerning the future of the UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System). SUBSTANCE: the document presents an overview of developments in the mobile and wireless communications market within the European Community since the 1994 Green Paper on mobile and personal communications was published. It considered, in particular, the choices and challenges presented by the next generation of digital mobile systems, referred to as the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS), which would allow the use of multi-media applications through mobile technologies. The Commission had identified several fields where it is important to have a coordinated approach at European level, including regulation, standardization, frequency allocation, R&D efforts and international cooperation. The objective was to create a framework which led to greater choice, improved quality and lower prices for all users of mobile services, while ensuring full competition within an environment which fostered the competitiveness that the sector had achieved so far. The Commission hopes for a debate on this issue and states that comments from interested parties should be submitted before 15 July 1997.

Mobile and wireless communications UMTS: strategy and policy orientations

1997/2128(COS) - 15/10/1997 - Document attached to the procedure

Following the debate launched by the European Commission on the future of UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System) (COM (97)217 of 29 May 1997), the Commission presented the outcome of this public consultation and a Community action plan based on the results of the consultation. Two questions in particular were singled out for attention in the light of the results and the summary of comments received: 1) clarification of the system for granting UMTS licences; 2) the availability of radio frequencies as and when they were needed. The comments highlighted the fact that the relevant authorities need to take urgent action in this sector if UMTS is to develop efficiently and maintain the competitiveness of European industry in this sector. At the same time, the Member States and the economic players in question felt that basic consumer interests needed to be safeguarded. In particular, roaming of mobile multimedia services needed to be guaranteed at European level on the basis of a common, open, competitive radio interface standard at international level which would enable Europe to participate fully in the global "wireless information society", in the same way as it currently benefited from GSM in voice communications. The Commission has drawn up the outlines (based on the replies received) of the action which it intends to take over coming years with a view to creating a favourable environment for the continuing development of UMTS. The strategy revolves around a proposal for a decision on UMTS which aims to: - define rights and obligations when negotiating roaming agreements, insofar as they are not covered by the interconnection directive; - determine the conditions for granting licences with a view to guaranteeing the availability of pan-European services based on ETSI standards; - design a method which will allow the allocation of frequencies to UMTS to be coordinated at Community level. The Commission hopes to submit this proposal during January 1998 (so that it can be adopted at the beginning of 1999). The ERC would then be authorized to negotiate the allocation of new frequencies to the sector and the section of the spectrum allocated to UMTS could be extended again around October 1999. Apart from the strictly regulatory aspects of the allocation of frequencies, the Commission is also planning standardization (in cooperation with the ETSI) and R&D (under the fifth framework programme for research). Other initiatives are also planned at international level, in particular in the form of a proposal for a UMTS standard prepared by the ETSI (standard IMT2000 (ITU)). Finally, the Commission is planning to review the regulatory environment for telecommunications as a whole by the end of the century.

Mobile and wireless communications UMTS: strategy and policy orientations

1997/2128(COS) - 29/01/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Felipe CAMISON ASENSIO (PPE, E), the European Parliament welcomed the communication from the Commission, since the future development of mobile and wireless communications was the cornerstone of the construction of an information society geared to all citizens. While recognizing that the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) must be allowed to develop by giving free play to market forces, Parliament stressed the need for a European approach to regulation, standardization, frequency allocation, R&D, international cooperation and provision of universal service. The report called in particular on European industry, through ETSI, to come up with one single standard for UMTS in order to avoid competition between technically incompatible standards. Special attention must also be devoted to the allocation and efficient use of frequencies. Parliament stressed the need to consider how UMTS could help the elderly and the disabled.

Mobile and wireless communications UMTS: strategy and policy orientations

1997/2128(COS) - 11/12/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee welcomes the Commission communications as a necessary step paving the way towards a European policy for the establishment of UMTS. It endorses the main areas of consensus identified by the Commission and makes more detailed comments on the following aspects : Frequency spectrum : it is essential to ensure that sufficient spectrum remains available during the transition from GSM, DCS-1800 and PCS-1900 second generation systems. Licences : action in this context must respect the industry expectations that the first UMTS services should enter service around 2002, with widespread global availability anticipated around 2005. To meet this timetable, an EU framework should be established to ensure that the NRAs grant licences through objective, transparent and non-discriminatory licensing procedures with sufficient lead time starting as early as end of 1998. Regulation : Member States will have to take necessary measures to complete the implementation and application of EU legislation and the decisions on frequency issues reached with the European Radiocommunications Committee. In particular, the question of roaming between UMTS and the existing second generation systems needs to be addressed in detail. Standards : cooperation between Commission and EU Member States,

and with the relevant organizations both at European and international level, should aim to ensure that the EU adopts a single approach to UMTS. The standardization process must involve full participation of all major industry players representing the manufacturing and operator interests to minimise intellectual property problems. Societal issues : Early solution to societal issues will contribute to the creation of a favourable environment for market growth.