Basic information

1998/0051(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction **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)	16/04/1998

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	CAMISÓN ASENSIO Felipe (PPE)	16/04/1998

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	MALERBA Franco E. (UPE)	17/03/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2117	1998-09-24
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2142	1998-11-30
Telecommunications	2096	1998-05-19
Telecommunications	2071	1998-02-26

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

11/02/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0058	Summary
26/02/1998	Debate in Council		
13/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
19/05/1998	Debate in Council		
03/06/1998	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
03/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0221/1998	
17/06/1998	Debate in Parliament		Summary
27/07/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0496	Summary
24/09/1998	Council position published	09780/1/1998	Summary
09/10/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
10/11/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
10/11/1998	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0414/1998	
30/11/1998	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
14/12/1998	Final act signed		
14/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/01/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/0051(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
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/4/10461

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0221/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0008	03/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0364/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0170-0202	18/06/1998	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0414/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0006	10/11/1998	

Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0655/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0057-0067	18/11/1998	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	09780/1/1998 OJ C 333 30.10.1998, p. 0056	24/09/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1998)0058 OJ C 131 29.04.1998, p. 0009	11/02/1998	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1998)0496 OJ C 276 04.09.1998, p. 0004	27/07/1998	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1998)1555	29/09/1998	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2001)0141	20/03/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0301	11/06/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0644/1998 OJ C 214 10.07.1998, p. 0092	29/04/1998	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0159/1998 OJ C 373 02.12.1998, p. 0023	16/09/1998	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1999/0128
OJ L 017 22.01.1999, p. 0001 Summary

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 11/02/1998 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to provide without delay at Community level for specific measures for Member States regarding the harmonized introduction of mobile and wireless communications (UMTS) in the European Union. SUBSTANCE: following on from the Commission communication of 15 October 1997 (COS0569) the proposal for a decision sets the specific conditions in view of the coordinated introduction by Member States of the third generation of UMTS services in the European Union. UMTS will offer users a wireless access to the Internet and other multi-media services in addition to mobile telephony and messaging services already available today. The proposal extends the harmonization process of Directive 97/13/EC on licensing, which provides for cooperation with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) and a comitology procedure. This process will apply to both general authorizations and to individual licences. The proposal also requires that licences be based on European standards developed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) where available. Member States will therefore be required to take all the necessary steps to allow the harmonized provision of UMTS services by 1 January 2002 at the latest and in particular to establish a harmonized authorization system for UMTS by 1 January 2000 at the latest.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 20/03/2001 - Follow-up document

At a moment when 11 out of 15 Member States have issued 3G licenses and as the first 3G networks are about to be rolled out, the Communication briefly takes stock of the situation and identifies in particular four critical layers which may impact on the successful deployment of 3G services over the forthcoming years: -The regulatory environment; -The financial context; -Gaining experience with the new market; -Outstanding technical issues. The Communication confirms the confidence the Commission has in the 3G market perspectives, while recalling the underlying policy objectives in terms of building the Information Society, capitalising on the success of 2G, securing jobs, and preserving and expanding the lead the European Union has on mobile communications in terms of technology development, competitiveness and service deployment. To overcome possible difficulties, the Communication proposes action lines which could help easing the transition from 2G to 3G. The measures relate to the improvement of the regulatory environment, tackling pending technical issues and supporting the development of innovative wireless applications and content offers as well as ensuring a continuous R&D effort in the sector at Community level. With regard to the actions to be taken at EU level, the report notes that the cost of low degree of harmonisation of licensing methods and conditions has become evident in the on-going 3G licensing round. The apparent distortions to the European single market for mobile communication services call for EU level action. - First, while making future wireless services a commercial success is a task for private enterprises, it is the responsibility of the Community to ensure that the right regulatory conditions are in place for the future. - Secondly, co-ordinated action in support of future wireless services can be offered via the existing Community policies such as research programmes and the eEurope Action Plan. - Thirdly, there are newly emerging regulatory issues related to the present licensing round - which is carried out under existing legislation - that may yet increase fragmentation, if action is not taken. Lastly, the Commission intends to launch without delay, within the scope of legislation in force, a dialogue with the Member States and the operators and equipment manufacturers, in order to explore concrete means to facilitate deployment of 3G networks and services.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 18/06/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Felipe CAMISON ASENSIO (PPE, E), the European Parliament approved the Commission proposal for a decision seeking to promote and coordinate the advent of the third generation of mobile telecommunications. The European Parliament tabled a number of amendments seeking to assure sufficient cover for less densely populated areas, together with total compatibility with GSM and UMTS. It calls on the Member States when authorizing UMTS services to ensure that this takes place in compliance with the unity legislation in force adhering inter alia to the principles of transparency and non-discrimination.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 27/07/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission's amended proposal incorporates, in whole or in part, 8 of the 10 amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading. The amendments accepted particularly had the purpose of: - replacing the term 'UMTS service providers' with 'organisations providing UMTS networks'. This amendment is compatible with the need to stress network operators rather than service-providers; - amending the reference to the time when, in all likelihood, additional frequency spectrum will be needed, by replacing '2005' with 'within a number of years'; - stating that the list in Annex I includes the minimum features which the UMTS system will be capable of accommodating; - stating that the Commission will be directly entitled to seek effective implementation of international agreements applicable to UMTS; - reformulating the title so as to indicate clearly that Annex I relates to

the system capacities needed to accommodate service features. The new formulation also defines more precisely the levels of mobility of the applications: full mobility and low mobility applications in different geographical environments beyond the capability of the second-generation systems such as GSM; - taking account - in Annex I, third part, 'core network' - of call handling, service control and location and mobility management, in line with comments received from industry. The amendments partially accepted by the Commission had the purpose of: - inserting a reference to Community legislation, and particularly to the principles of transparency and non-discrimination; - stating that the reason for limiting the number of UMTS services in the event of incompatibility of certain potential systems is the limited nature of the frequency spectrum. The Commission was unable to accept the amendments seeking to: - include less populated areas within the scope of roaming agreements which organisations providing UMTS networks should have the right and duty to negotiate with the aim of guaranteeing roaming throughout the Community; - replacing the terms 'full roaming between GSM' with 'full roaming between all GSM services'.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 14/12/1998 - Final act

PURPOSE: to facilitate the rapid and co-ordinated introduction of a third-generation mobile and wireless communications system (UMTS) in the Community. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Decision 128/1999/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on the co-ordinated introduction of a third-generation mobile and wireless communications system (UMTS) in the Community. CONTENT: The Decision requires Member States to take all actions necessary in order to allow the co-ordinated and progressive introduction of the UMTS services on their territory by 01.01.2002 at the latest and in particular establish an authorisation system for UMTS no later than January 2000. In the event of exceptional technical difficulties in achieving the necessary adjustments in their frequency plan, Member States shall be granted on request an additional implementation period of up to 12 months. Such a request has to be filed before 01.01.2000. Member States shall encourage organisations providing UMTS networks to negotiate among themselves cross-border roaming agreements to ensure seamless Community-wide service coverage. Where necessary, Member States may take action, in accordance with Community law, to ensure the coverage of less-populated areas. The Commission shall take all necessary measures, where appropriate in co-operation with ETSI, to promote a common and open standard for the provision of compatible UMTS services throughout Europe, in accordance with market requirements, taking into account the need to present a common standard to the ITU IMT 2000 recommendation. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 22/01/1999.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 29/09/1998 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission considered the common position of the Council acceptable. The main difference in comparison with the initial proposal lay in the insertion of a provision allowing Member States to ask for a deferment of up to 12 months of the deadlines in the event of exceptional technical problems in adjusting their national frequency plans.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 11/06/2002

This Communication emphasises the Commission's belief that commercially-viable advanced wireless systems, including 3G, are indispensable for Europe to attain the goals set in Lisbon with respect to a competitive knowledge-based economy and the realisation of the information society. After a continuous effort to develop 3G and to prepare for the deployment of a new wireless service generation, the roll-out of networks is finally underway while growing evidence for a significant market potential is emerging, albeit uncertainty as to its detailed evolution persists. Besides a general economic recovery, to which the mobile sector including 3G could considerably contribute, the sector is best served by letting the market drive the process ahead, and by allowing healthy competition to generate new products which consumers want to buy. Administrations, including the Commission, can contribute to confidence in the sector by ensuring a predictable and stable regulatory environment conducive to a competitive market serving consumers' interests. For the immediate future, administrations can help overcome the difficulties encountered in the physical deployment of networks by harmonising the conditions and speeding up the procedures applicable for the acquisition of base stations sites. In addition, they can foster efforts to improve public awareness on safe usage of mobile equipment. In the longer run, the lack of harmonisation in licensing conditions and assignment across the EU for 3G may represent a hindrance to integration in the Internal Market for telecommunications and my cause market distortions and uncertainty in the sector. This must be avoided as much as possible in the future, especially taking into account that new countries will shortly join the EU. The Commission intends to use the new regulatory framework in electronic communications to work together with national administrations to develop new harmonised approaches to licensing and attribution of rights to use radio spectrum for new 3G licences and for other wireless applications. Until the market reaches cruising speed, the take-up of 3G is a continuous process which requires continued attention. There are no simple answers to the challenges ahead, but 3G has developed sufficient momentum to overcome the present difficulties. The Commission states that it remains confident in this respect.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 24/09/1998 - Council position

Without altering the basic objective of the initial proposal, the common position of the Council largely accords with the amendments of the European Parliament. The main difference in comparison with the initial proposal lies in the introduction into the text of a certain flexibility so that Member States' freeing of the frequency bands to be used for future mobile and wireless communications can be carried out properly. If they have exceptional technical difficulties in adjusting their national frequency plans, Member States can obtain an extra period of up to 12 months beyond the deadlines of 01/01 /2000 and 01/01/2002 which have been set for establishing an authorisation system and introducing UMTS services. The further amendments to the proposal take account of those of Parliament's amendments which were accepted by the Commission in its amended proposal, and serve to clarify the text: - clear separation from second-generation mobile communication systems; - clear rules on cross-border roaming, distinct from national roaming, which falls within the jurisdiction of the Member States; - Annex I links network capacities to the minimum characteristics listed in Annex I, leaving it to the market to decide on the actual provision of the associated services; - mandates to CEPT/ECTRA to carry out harmonisation, particularly stressing harmonisation of frequencies; - the concept of coordination is now linked to the introduction of UMTS rather than the introduction of national authorisation systems, which will be based on harmonisation where this is required; - adjustments to the text to indicate that most of the requirements will refer to the provision of networks rather than of services, since, in accordance with the Directive on licences, authorisation requirements mostly apply to networks; - reference to market forces for the following points: a) definition of terminal configuration; b) taking account of demand on the market when UMTS is introduced; c) replacement of the conferral of rights and obligations on bodies to negotiate roaming agreements with encouragement by the Member States to organisations to negotiate these agreements.

Third-generation mobile and wireless communications system UMTS: ccordinated introduction

1998/0051(COD) - 18/11/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted without debate the recommendation by Mr Felipe CAMISON ASENSIO (PPE, E) on the coordinated introduction of a third-generation mobile and wireless communications system (UMTS) in the Community.