Basic information

1998/2050(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Navigation by satellite: trans-European positioning network GNSS **Subject** 3.30.03.06 Communications by satellite	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
TRAN Transport and Tourism	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE)	17/03/1998

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	DELL'ALBA Gianfranco (ARE)	21/04/1998
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	20/05/1998
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	POMPIDOU Alain (UPE)	23/06/1998
RELA External Economic Relations	MALERBA Franco E. (UPE)	23/04/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2108	1998-06-17

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
21/01/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0029	Summary
30/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/06/1998	Debate in Council		
28/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary

28/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0413/1998	
12/01/1999	Debate in Parliament		
13/01/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/04/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2050(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	TRAN/4/09830

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0413/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0006	28/10/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0019/1999 OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0038-0073	13/01/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0029	21/01/1998	Summary

Navigation by satellite: trans-European positioning network GNSS

1998/2050(COS) - 13/01/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The resolution drafted by Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (D, EPP) on the Commission's Communication on a European strategy for global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) was approved by the European Parliament. The report welcomes the Commission's proposed action plan as a concrete step forward in the development of a civil multimodal system, fully integrated in the trans-European transport and telecommunications networks. It equally welcomes the Council conclusions, which invite the Commission to proceed with the drawing up of a strategy for GNSS and emphasises the need for a wider range of research resources and to encourage basic research in order to develop appropriate satellites, ground installations and on-board equipment. The Parliament requests the establishment of a European Space Council, responsible for giving clear decisions on the strategic, technical and budgetary guidelines as well as the timetable for GNSS2 after negotiations with the US and Russia. This cooperation should not only concern equal participation in the promotion of a Europeean contribution to GNSS but also equal access to all the resulting basic technologies. The report calls on the Commission to decide, no later than the beginning of 1999, in favour of one of the three options mentioned in its communication for the development of a trans-European positioning and navigation network and to present a coherent strategy defining and setting out the objectives of GNSS 2. It encourages the Commission to negotiate with potential international partners with a view to establishing a transeuropean navigation and positioning network and to act as European negotiator in the international fora for satellite orbital positions and frequencies assigment to the satellite navigation services. Concerned that access to the necessary frequencies should be guaranteed, the Parliament asks that the Commission assess the

need for an entity at European level to harmonise rules. Stressing that European participation in GNSS opens up important new job opportunities, the report calls on the Commission to take steps to aid its development and create a structure for the European Space industry and to provide incentives for industrial consortia for the development of high performance on-board systems.

Navigation by satellite: trans-European positioning network GNSS

1998/2050(COS) - 21/01/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to propose a European strategy for global navigation satellite systems (GNSS). SUBSTANCE: in presenting its Communication the Commission calls on the Member States to agree by early 1999 on the strategy which the Union should adopt with regard to navigation systems and satellite positioning, an expanding world market which could be worth $50 billion within 7 years, with many applications in the transport sector but also in agriculture and in oil and gas exploration. The key strategic issue is how best to ensure an effective EU role in long-term development of GNSS. The Commission considers that three options can be envisaged: - joint development of GNSS by all the major players; - the EU developing a GNSS with one or more international partners (in particular the United States, Japan and Russia); - independent development by the EU of its own system as an alternative to the two existing systems (the American GPS system and the Russian GLONASS system). The Commission considers that in the long term the ideal would be to cooperate with all the Union's international partners, provided however that this cooperation takes place on an equitable basis and that the Union's interests are respected. To this end the Commission calls on the Member States to work together and start consultations with the main international operators with a view to studying the possibility of achieving an acceptable joint system based on the following criteria: - full European participation in the design, development and operation of the system; - guarantees from the outset that the system (on which Europe will depend for certain vital and safety-related applications) will not be withdrawn or disrupted unilaterally by one party; - an opportunity for European industry to compete equally in all segments of the market, with equal access to the basic technologies. If these conditions are not met, the Union should opt for the establishment of an independent European GNSS, taking into account the technological developments which might substantially reduce the cost of development of such a system. The financing of a European GNSS system (which should cost between ECU 400 million and ECU 400 billion, depending on quality) could be undertaken through a public/private partnership. The Union must now decide on its strategy rapidly as any delay could impair the prospect of Europe achieving a competitive position in this market.