Basic information

1999/2210(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Parental control of television broadcasting **Subject** 3.30.02 Television, cable, digital, mobile 4.10.03 Child protection, children's rights	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	ANGELILLI Roberta (UEN)	25/11/1999
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/07/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0371	Summary
17/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/09/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
19/09/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0258/2000	
04/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0440/2000	Summary
05/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/06/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2210(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/5/12005

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0258/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0008	19/09/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0440/2000 OJ C 178 22.06.2001, p. 0186-0279	05/10/2000	Summary

European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0371	19/07/1999	Summary

Parental control of television broadcasting

1999/2210(COS) - 19/07/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: Commission Communication on a Study on Parental Control of Television Broadcasting

CONTENT: The study was carried out as required by Article 22b.2 of the amended Television without Frontiers Directive. The study reaffirms the importance accorded to the protection of minors and considers that a significant public interest lies in protecting children from viewing excessive television violence and other programming that may produce harmful effects. Its main conclusions are:

- The explosion in the number of channels in Europe, many of them cross-border channels, in a multi-set digital era makes it more difficult for regulators to monitor broadcasters· compliance with programming standards based on cultural sensitivities.
- The adoption of 'V-chip' technology is not technically feasible in Europe. In any event, digital technology offers the opportunity to develop far more sophisticated and secure filtering systems. The Commission will discuss this in the framework of its regular contacts with Digital Video Broadcasting (DGV).
- Technical measures are not a complete substitute for broadcaster responsibility, although they make a valuable contribution with regard to encrypted services such as pay-TV. Broadcaster responsibility must be maintained, and methods such as the 'watershed' must remain effective.
- A harmonised approach to rating audiovisual content is excluded because of the cultural diversity of the European market. The study approves of the drawing up of common descriptive criteria, which would leave the evaluation of content to the competent national authorities.
- Rating systems used in the different media should be brought more into line with each other.

The Commission will pursue the development and promotion of descriptive ratings systems adapted to the digital environment.

Parental control of television broadcasting

1999/2210(COS) - 05/10/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Roberta Angelilli (UEN, Italy) on parental control of television broadcasting. Parliament expressed its dismay at the rising wave of television violence to which children are exposed, and felt that all television operators should agree a code of self-regulation in respect of the protection of minors. It emphasised the need to ensure the availability to all families of television filtering devices at an affordable price, and called on the Member States to ensure this objective. The Commission is called upon to conduct another study to identify ways in which people in all age groups can be prepared for coping in an aware fashion with the growing volume of television offerings in the digital age.