## Basic information

| | |
|---|---|
| **2000/0128(CNS)**<br><br>CNS - Consultation procedure<br>Decision | Procedure completed |
| Information society, eContent: European digital content, linguistic diversity. 2001-2004 programme<br><br>**Subject**<br><br>3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies<br>3.30.25.02 Information programmes and action plans<br>4.40.08 Language learning, regional and local languages | |

## Key players

### European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy | GILL Neena (PSE) | 13/09/2000 |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| BUDG Budgets | SEPPÄNEN Esko (GUE/NGL) | 14/09/2000 |
| ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market | FOURTOU Janelly (PPE-DE) | 17/10/2000 |
| EMPL Employment and Social Affairs | CAVERI Luciano (ELDR) | 06/09/2000 |
| CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport (Associated committee) | FRAISSE Geneviève (GUE/NGL) | 10/10/2000 |

### Council of the European Union

| Council configuration | Meetings | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Telecommunications | 2325 | 2000-12-22 |
| Telecommunications | 2293 | 2000-10-03 |

### European Commission

| Commission DG | Commissioner |
|---|---|
| Communications Networks, Content and Technology | |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24/05/2000 | Legislative proposal published | COM(2000)0323 | Summary |
| 03/10/2000 | Debate in Council | | |
| 06/10/2000 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 05/12/2000 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 05/12/2000 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A5-0390/2000 | |
| 13/12/2000 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 14/12/2000 | Decision by Parliament | T5-0578/2000 | Summary |
| 22/12/2000 | Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament | | |
| 22/12/2000 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 18/01/2001 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

## Technical information

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|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 2000/0128(CNS) |
| **Procedure type** | CNS - Consultation procedure |
| **Procedure subtype** | Legislation |
| **Legislative instrument** | Decision |
| **Legal basis** | EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 157-p3<br>Rules of Procedure EP 57_o |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | ITRE/5/13615 |

## Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | | A5-0390/2000<br>OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0010 | 05/12/2000 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | | T5-0578/2000<br>OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0205-0331 | 14/12/2000 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| | COM(2000)0323 | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legislative proposal | OJ C 337 28.11.2000, p. 0031 E | 24/05/2000 | Summary |
| Follow-up document | COM(2003)0591 | 10/10/2003 | Summary |

**Other institutions and bodies**

| Institution/body | Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EESC | Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report | CES1431/2000<br>OJ C 116 20.04.2001, p. 0030 | 29/11/2000 | |
| CofR | Committee of the Regions: opinion | CDR0316/2000<br>OJ C 144 16.05.2001, p. 0038 | 14/12/2000 | |

**Additional information**

| Source | Document | Date |
|---|---|---|
| European Commission | EUR-Lex | |

**Final act**

Decision 2001/0048
OJ L 014 18.01.2001, p. 0032 Summary

# Information society, eContent: European digital content, linguistic diversity. 2001-2004 programme

2000/0128(CNS) - 24/05/2000 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a Multiannual Community programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content and to promote linguistic diversity. CONTENT : Digital content plays a predominant role in the evolution towards an information society, substantially contributing to economic growth and employment, and enhancing the professional, social and cultural developments of the citizens of Europe. The multiannual programme is designated the European Digital Content for Global Networks ("the programme") and has the following objectives: - creating favourable conditions for the commercialisation, distribution and use of European digital content on the global networks, thus stimulating economic activity and enhancing employment prospects; - stimulating the use of Europe's content potential, and in particular public sector information; - promoting multilingualism in digital content on the global networks and increasing the export opportunities of European content firms and in particular SME's through linguistic customisation; - contributing to the professional, social and cultural development of the citizens of the Union and facilitating the economic and social integration of citizens in the candidate countries in the information society. To attain these objectives, the following actions will be undertaken: - stimulating the exploitation of public sector information; - enhancing linguistic and cultural customisation - supporting market enablers, which includes bridging the funding gap and rights trading; - support actions. The programme will run from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005. The total budget requested is EUR 5 million.

# Information society, eContent: European digital content, linguistic diversity. 2001-2004 programme

2000/0128(CNS) - 14/12/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament agreed on a number of amendments, (which were expressed by the committee reponsible, refer to the previous document), to the text drafted by Mrs Neena GILL (PES, UK).

# Information society, eContent: European digital content, linguistic diversity. 2001-2004 programme

2000/0128(CNS) - 22/12/2000 - Final act

PURPOSE : to adopt a multiannual Community programme (2001-2005) which aims to promote the use of European digital content on global networks (the eContent Programme). COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 2001/48/EC concerning the adoption of a multiannual Community Programme aiming to strengthening the use and development of European digital content on global networks as well as promoting linguistic diversity in the information society. CONTENT : the eContent Programme covers the period from 18.01.2001 to 17.01.2005 and has a budget of EUR 100 million for the that period. It is made up of 4 main objectives: - to help stimulate the use of and access for all to the Internet by increasing the availability of European digital content on the global networks to support the professional, social and cultural development of the citizens of the European Union and facilitating the economic and social integration of nationals of the applicant countries into the information society; - to stimulate access to and use of European digital content potential and especially promoting more effective use of infromation hed by the public sector; - to promote cultural diversity and multilingualism, especially in the languages of the European Union, in digital content on the global networks and increasing the export opportunities of European content firms, and in particular SMEs through culture and linguistic customisation; - to create favourable conditions for the reduction of market fragmentation for the marketing distribution and use of European digital content on the global networks to stimulate economic activity and enhance employment prospects. In order to attain these objectives, 3 action lines are provided, accompanied by support actions written in the Annex of the decision: 1) improve access to and expanding use of public sector information; 2) enhance content production in a multilingual and multicultural environment; 3) increasing dynamism of the digital content market. An Annex to the programme sets out an indicative breakdown of expenditure. The Commission is responsible for the implementation of the eContent programme and its coordination. Moreover, the selected beneficiaries shall submit a report to the Commission. It should be noted that participation in the programme may be opened to legal entities established in EFTA States which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA). The programme shall also be open to CEECs countries and also Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, in accordance with bilateral agreements to be concluded. Participation may also be opened without finanical support by the Community from the programme, to legal entities established in third countries and international organisations. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 22.12.2000. The Decision shall apply from 18.01.2001.

# Information society, eContent: European digital content, linguistic diversity. 2001-2004 programme

2000/0128(CNS) - 10/10/2003 - Follow-up document

This Communication concerns the mid term evaluation of the eContent programme (2001 -2004). The evaluation was carried out by a consortium of companies. During the years 2001-2002, 58 projects were co-financed, involving over 468 organisations. The evaluators formulated recommendations for the second part of the current programme as well as giving indications for a possible continuation of the activities. The key evaluation findings are as follows: The benefits of the programme are significant in comparison with the level of resources allocated to it. The programme fulfils the role of demonstrating the potential economic benefits of information held by the public sector as well as increased market access opportunities provided by linguistic and cultural adaptation of digital content to target audiences. The evaluators recognised the positive impact of the current programme and expressed a clear recommendation to continue supporting digital content via Community policies and programmes. More specifically it was concluded that: - the programme intervention logic was well designed, with a hierarchy of objectives ranging from the political framework of facilitating "access for all" to the Internet, through the operational goals of the action lines and the results expected from the individual projects selected; - the programme stimulated projects that would not have happened in the same form or with the same transnational dimension, thereby showing a high level of additionality and good use of public funds; - the programme reached its target audience, mainly SMEs, representing 43% of the participants, followed by public sector organisations (40 %). In terms of funding, 44% went to SMEs, with 29% being received by companies employing less than 50 people; - the programme was overall well managed. The paper goes on to make some recommendations for the implementation of the eContent programme, and to make suggestions for a follow-up programme. The Commission responds to the recommendations, and invites the European institutions to: - recognise of the role of digital content as a means to increase access to information by the citizens and to stimulate the economic and social development of European businesses; - support the role of the eContent programme as supporting demonstrators for the reuse of public sector information and the creation of European multilingual and multicultural content.