Basic information

2000/2072(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Implementation of Community telecommunications rules. 5th report 1999 **Subject** 3.30.03 Telecommunications, data transmission, telephone	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	PAASILINNA Reino (PSE)	07/12/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Communications Networks, Content and Technology	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/11/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0537	Summary
13/03/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/03/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
28/03/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0094/2000	
17/05/2000	Debate in Parliament		
18/05/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0231/2000	Summary
18/05/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/02/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2072(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	ITRE/5/12240

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0094/2000 OJ C 059 23.02.2001, p. 0003	28/03/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0231/2000 OJ C 059 23.02.2001, p. 0131-0242	18/05/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0537	10/11/1999	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1999)1886	12/11/1999	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0520/1999 OJ C 226 08.08.2000, p. 0056	13/04/2000	

Implementation of Community telecommunications rules. 5th report 1999

2000/2072(COS) - 10/11/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present a report on the state of implementation of the current telecommunications regulatory framework. CONTENT : This is the fifth report on the telecom regulatory framework. It assesses the extent to which the harmonisation directives have been transposed and analyses the way in which the national rules apply those principles in practice. It gives an overview of the state of the telecommunications services markets in Member States. It then identifies the main remaining barriers to the achievement of a single European market. The key conclusion is that, less than 2 years after the introduction of full competition, the regulatory framework drives telecommunications services markets in the Member States with an accelerating growth rate, large numbers of market entrants and falling tariffs. The national markets will have increased 7% on 1998 and the value of mobile services by around 16%. There is a marked increase in the number of operators both in the international and the domestic calls market. The number of Internet hosts per thousand inhabitants is estimated to have grown at an average of 125% across the Union from January 1998 to July 1999. Both residential and business tariffs are down in most Member States. There remain important problems to be resolved: - Barriers to the single market include the comparatively low level of harmonisation in the Community licensing and interconnection regimes and the way in which Community rules are implemented at national level. - The role of national regulatory authorities is impeded by disparities in their powers and resources, the way in which regulatory tasks are shared with other bodies, and differences in the procedures in place. They need to be more active particularly in seeking

interconnection agreements. - Failure to implement the framework for cost accounting in many Member States seems to be contributing to excessive price squeezes, in particular between retail and interconnections tariffs. - There is a lack of competition in the local access market in all Member states, although steps are being taken to remedy this. - The Commission finds it difficult to assess whether voice telephony tariffs have actually been rebalanced. Rebalancing is necessary to avoid price squeezes. - There are disparities in consumer protection cross the Member States. - The current framework does not explicitly address issues such as special schemes for Internet access.

Implementation of Community telecommunications rules. 5th report 1999

2000/2072(COS) - 18/05/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Reino PAASILINNA (PES, Finland) on the Commission's fifth report on the Commission's regulatory package. Whilst it welcomes the implementation of the 1998 regulatory package, it noted that in some cases, implementation is purely formal. Parliament expressed its concern at the fact that limited offer at the local loop level has prevented liberalisation from providing its full potential to most users, and from reduction of the cost of access to the internet to a level where it would become affordable to all citizens. It suggested that a unified approach to licensing would be valuable in order to improve market operation and spectrum availability. Parliament regretted that the Commission report did not include any figures on fees for the use of radio frequecies. Operators, and particularly incumbents, should provide interconnection and co-location on commercial terms. There are still too many obstacles to new investors, particularly for pan-European operators. The Commission is asked to facilitate market opening by publishing best practice benchmarks for market openness and a ranking of Member States for market openness performance. The Parliament also asked that carrier pre-selection be implemented in an easy and transparent way for consumers. It acknowledged that the liberalisation of the market has not had adverse consequences on the availability of universal service but was concerned that access to new services does not seem to have spread beyond the main urban centres, which runs counter to the need for regional equality and the equal rights of citizens in society. The Commission is asked to monitor universal service provision closely to ensure that market mechanisms deliver enhanced access for all EU citizens, wherever they live.