Basic information

2000/2074(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Digital television: use of standards for the transmission of signals **Subject** 3.30.02 Television, cable, digital, mobile	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	THORS Astrid (ELDR)	07/12/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Telecommunications	2228	1999-11-30

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)0540	Summary
30/11/1999	Debate in Council		
15/05/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/05/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
25/05/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0143/2000	
13/06/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0257/2000	Summary
13/06/2000	Debate in Parliament		
13/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/03/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2074(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/5/12245

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0143/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0009	25/05/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0257/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0023-0050	13/06/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0540	10/11/1999	Summary

Digital television: use of standards for the transmission of signals

2000/2074(COS) - 13/06/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Astrid THORS (ELDR, Finland) on the Commission's communication on digital television in the European Union. Parliament urged as a fundamental principle open access for digital TV, similar to the open network provision in the telecom sector ensuring that decoders for digital TV are in future regarded as part of the information infrastructure. Parliament also considered that interoperability can be achieved through different approaches to standards, either making them open and mandatory or installing a system where the proprietary standards are subject to licensing; whilst the present Directive opted for two different techniques, the simulcrypt technique and common interfaces, in the future, it is advisable under certain conditions that national authorities are mandated to impose the application of open standards adopted by European standardisation authorities.

Digital television: use of standards for the transmission of signals

2000/2074(COS) - 10/11/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : Commission Communication reporting on technical and market developments for digital television. CONTENT : This communication takes place in the context of reporting requirements of Directive 95/47/EC. - After discussing the importance of pay-TV in the development of digital television, the Communication goes on to say that the role of competition law is an important factor in the development of the market. The strength of free-to-air services in some Member States has made it hard to launch digital television through pay-TV. The large investments necessary have led to ventures with a high risk of market foreclosure. The structure of most broadcasting markets makes it hard for competition authorities to accept any new combination of existing players to address new markets. - There is a need for a broader approach to infrastructure, transmission and access. In markets where cable is the main means of delivery, access to networks has been a significant bottleneck for pay television operators. - The switchover from analogue must be realised in a competition neutral way, given that consumers will have to pay for new receiving equipment. Consumer choice should not be prejudiced. - Consumers will need very good quality information in order to make decisions that have tradiionally been made by other market actors and regulators. - The relative market positions of free-to-air and pay television in the longer term is uncertain. Various market forecasts indicate hat pay-TV subscription revenues are growing faster than advertising revenues. Regulation should not hinder market development, notably of innovative new services.