Basic information	
2000/2597(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on mergers in the telecommunications sector **Subject** 2.60.04 Economic concentration, mergers, takeover bids, holding companies 3.30.03 Telecommunications, data transmission, telephone	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/09/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0374/2000	Summary
07/09/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/05/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2597(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B5-0654/2000	06/09/2000	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0655/2000	06/09/2000	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0661/2000	06/09/2000	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0669/2000	06/09/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T5-0374/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0198-0261	07/09/2000	Summary

Resolution on mergers in the telecommunications sector

2000/2597(RSP) - 07/09/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on telecommunication mergers. It noted that since 1990, there has been a fivefold increase in the number of mergers notified under the merger regulation which increased to around 300 cases per year. This represents a growth in merger activities of 33% compared to 1998. Merger cases and control operations have become increasingly complex. The US penetration of the European market is very high. The Parliament welcomed the decision of the Commission and the US Department of Justice to block the merger of MCI WorldCom and Sprint because of its impact on competition in the market for top-level internet connectivity and voice telephony on the US-EU route. Effective competition on the European and global scale can only be maintained if there are reasonably comparable competitors in a market without one firm being dominant. The Council and Commission are called upon to revise the merger regulation and takeover bids directive in order to guarantee a simplified and consumer-friendly procedure for treatment of such concentrations. Parliament expressed its concern about the US appropriations bill which limits the transfer of licences to companies which are more than 25% owned by a foreign government and does not allow the use of existing waivers. This is seen as a breach of WTO and GATS commitments. These issues will be further addressed in Parliament's consideration of the Commission's competition reports.