Basic information

2001/0296(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I) **Subject** 3.30.20 Trans-European communications networks	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	FLESCH Colette (ELDR)	23/01/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2438	2002-06-17
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2420	2002-03-25

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Communications Networks, Content and Technology	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/12/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0742	Summary
13/12/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
25/03/2002	Debate in Council		Summary
16/04/2002	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
16/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0114/2002	
14/05/2002	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0210/2002	Summary
17/06/2002	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
17/06/2002	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2002)0317	Summary
12/07/2002	Final act signed		
12/07/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/07/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0296(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 156
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0114/2002	16/04/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0210/2002 OJ C 180 31.07.2003, p. 0021-0063 E	14/05/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0742 OJ C 103 30.04.2002, p. 0023 E	10/12/2001	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2002)0317 OJ C 227 24.09.2002, p. 0502 E	17/06/2002	Summary
	COM(2005)0354		

Follow-up document		01/08/2005	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Court of Auditors: opinion, report	RCC0009/2000 OJ C 166 15.06.2000, p. 0001	22/03/2000	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0679/2002 OJ C 221 17.09.2002, p. 0022	29/05/2002	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2002/1376
OJ L 200 30.07.2002, p. 0001-0004 Summary

Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I)

2001/0296(COD) - 12/07/2002 - Final act

PURPOSE : to revise the guidelines for the trans-European telecommunications networks. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Decision 1376/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 1336/97/EC on a series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks. CONTENT : the Council adopted a decision revising the guidelines which have been in force since 1997 for the trans-European telecommunications networks, by accepting all the amendments voted by European Parliament at first reading. The amendments made to the guidelines in force take account of the a special report from the Court of Auditors on the implementation of this decision, as well as from an external evaluation, technological progress since 1997 and of the expertise acquired in the management of the programme. These amendments relate inter alia to the trans-European dimension of the projects concerned, the strategic priorities of the eEurope Action plan, the reduction of the number of fields covered by the projects, the deployment of the public services and the interconnection and the interoperability of the networks.

Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I)

2001/0296(COD) - 01/08/2005 - Follow-up document

This document constitutes a **mid term review of the eTEN Programme** in accordance with article 14 of the eTEN Decision. An evaluation of the eTEN Programme was commissioned from a consortium and took place between January and December 2004. The two objectives were:

-To evaluate ex postthe implementation and performance in relation to objectives and results of the programme over the period July 2000 to June 2004, extended to include an assessment of the longer term socio-economic impacts of the programme,

-To evaluate ex antepossible programme re-orientations in the near future (until end 2006) and possible policy options for a new phase of the programme from 2006.

The document describres the main characteristics of the ETen Programme and the re-orientation which brought eTEN in line with new policy objectives defined in the Lisbon Agenda. eTEN is now concerned with accelerating the takeup of trans-European eServices of common interest in the EU and is a

support programme for the achievement of objectives defined in the eEurope Action Plan 2005. eTEN had an annual budget of around EUR 45 million in the years 2003 and 2004 and operated mainly through the disbursement of grants following annual Calls for Proposals. This level of funding is expected to continue in 2005 and 2006.

eTEN supports two kinds of projects, so-called “Initial Deployment” projects and “Market Validation” projects. Initial Deployment projects are downstream and support the roll-out phase of an eService; they are funded at up to 10% of project costs. These represent a small fraction of funded projects. Market Validation projects are upstream and seek to validate the cost benefit of an eService; they are funded at up to 50% of project costs and represent the largest fraction of funded projects and proposals submitted.

The Commission gives a general appraisal of the evaluation. It feels that it is clear from the report that the eTEN Programme has a major role to play in the future deployment of the Information Society in Europe. Further, the Commission welcomes the report’s acknowledgement that the programme is now well managed and that following its re-alignment in July 2002, it is now more strategically positioned and is a key part of Information Society policies. However, it is also clear that under its present form, eTEN will not achieve its potential and needs to be substantially re-cast in a more demand led form in a future follow-on initiative.

Taking both the ex-ante and ex-post conclusions into account, the Commission is now engaged in the definition of such a new follow on Programme. The Commission also acknowledges the report’s recommendations for the short and medium term and is engaged in improvements to the current programme.

The document looks at the evaluation report’s conclusions and recommendations and points out that most of the recommendations have already been incorporated in the Work Programme for 2005.

The Report identifies a need for a major change in the current form of the programme and proposes an optimal mix of approaches including a more coordinated strategy which is led by demand. Under this approach, requirements would be defined by committee and projects would be implemented by a public procurement procedure. The Commission will investigate the prospects for applying the Open Method of Coordination to support policy learning, good practice exchange, benchmarking and better co-ordination of strategies across local, regional and national activities.

To a significant extent, the increase in productivity required for the realisation of the Lisbon objectives will be realised through the use of effective eServices. The Commission takes note of the objective recommended in the Evaluation Report for the future programme which is “To contribute to the deployment of eServices (or

eSolutions) addressing key needs of the public sector, as well as interoperability of services and systems across borders, thus helping to reduce the barriers for citizens and companies to participate fully in the internal market and benefit from an efficient and effective delivery of public services.”

There is a need to change the intervention approach from supply-driven to demand-driven. Experience shows that the use of Open Calls for Proposals does not lead to the coordinated implementation of trans-European public eServices. A variety of mechanisms for a more co-ordinated approach described in the document will need to be evaluated when defining the follow up programme.

The Commission agrees with the report that, if real impacts are to be achieved, projects should address a significant part of the demand in selected areas. The deployment of larger scale services in the common interest will need both a larger budget than is currently available and will depend on the availability of more attractive conditions of participation than those offered by the current 10% limit which the stakeholder community have clearly rejected as being too small.

Recommendations have been taken into account in redesigning the programme as a key element in a new initiative to follow-up eEurope 2005, namely the i2010 initiative. Furthermore, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, which includes a proposed follow-up programme to eTEN, has been adopted by the Commissionand submitted to the European Parliament and Council as part of the new Financial Perspectives.

Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I)

2001/0296(COD) - 22/03/2000 - Court of Auditors: opinion, report

This Special Report 9/2000 from the Court of Auditors examines the development and implementation of EU policy concerning the trans-European-network-telecommunications programme (hereafter referred to as TEN-telecom) and the related measures ('Trans-European telecommunications networks' (ECU 115 million in financial commitments from 1993 to 1998). This audit by the Court of Auditors examined how far the Commission has succeeded in implementing this policy and its coordination with related measures in the research programme and in the Structural Funds. In its conclusions, the Court recommends that the Commission should provide the Council and the Parliament with details of the TEN-telecom actions and its assessment of the extent to which their objectives have been achieved. In each case where aid is granted for near-market feasibility studies and pilot projects, it needs to be clearly shown that the specific objectives of these types of action are well justified, and that they are unlikely to be achieved without EU subsidy. At the same time consideration should be given to a closer linking between the telematic research, development and demonstration activities (RTD) co-financed through the research programme and the near market projects supported through TEN-telecom, including an assessment of the scope for further improvements in efficiencies if the RTD-telematic projects and the related market-validation activities were managed together. The Court notes that the telecommunications sector is currently very competitive and expanding rapidly without substantial public subsidies from any source, in response to the liberalisation of the sector and the development of mobile communications. Furthermore, in commercial terms, telecommunications companies are amongst the largest companies in Europe, with ready access through the markets to investment funds of all types. The Commission should ensure that it closely monitors the technical developments in this fast-moving field to better focus its expenditure in order to maximise its impact. The Court believes that the Commission should develop new guidance for the Structural Fund interventions in the field of telecommunication, where liberalisation, privatisation and increased competition are key developments. The TEN general rules, which were conceived

to promote infrastructure projects, though not applicable to the Structural Funds, can provide a basis for this reorientation, by allowing direct grants to investment only in duly justified cases and by favouring Community aid in the form of interest subsidies and loan guarantees. In addition, the coordination between financing under TEN-telecom and financing from the Structural Funds, EIB and EIF should be intensified, so that the necessary complementarity and synergy between the different types of instrument may be achieved. In its 1999 report to the Council the Commission itself stressed this necessity. The issue of interconnection and interoperability will have an increasingly important role to play especially with regard to the development of new links with the central and east European candidate countries. The trans-European aspect of the TEN policy will need to be evaluated in this light. The Commission should carry out more on-the-spot checks to ensure that the execution of TEN-telecom projects and the results achieved are in accordance with the rules and objectivesidentified in the contracts. In response to the Court's observations, the Commission made it clear that an in-depth evaluation of the action will take place from May to September 2000, where the specific issues to be evaluated are the following: relevance of the action's objectives, priorities and implementing measures; the effectiveness and impact of the action; its efficiency and cost-effectiveness; its utility and sustainability; causal links from resources used through to activities and presumed impacts (the intervention logic); lessons to be learnt in terms of legal base, resources and delivery mechanisms for possible future interventions of similar type. The Commission will then submit proposals for revision of the guidelines on the basis of such an evaluation and technical developments. Without pre-empting political decisions, critical points for revision could be the following: - the action would be clearly differentiated from what is covered by the research. A segmentation into three distinct domains would be proposed, where the nature of actors involved, the market potential and business definition, the investment perspectives and financial packages are different: the public-service domain, the global-service domain, and the growth-enhancing service domain addressing the risk capital market, - the action would be more focused. Annex 1 to the present guidelines provides for both too large and too complex area coverage. A simplified scheme would be proposed, building on priority actions of the eEurope initiative, - the work programme would remain sufficiently general to reflect technology changes and new market trends in the definition of calls for proposals, - the structuring of projects and related Community support would also be made clearer, - greater emphasis would need to be placed on the trans-European dimension of the action, - the external dimension would also have to be considered, allowing primarily for participation of associated countries within the framework of their agreements with the European Community, and of countries from the EEA. Beyond project monitoring, reviews and controls which are made on the basis of contractual specifications, more on-the-spot checks could be made with appropriate resources devoted to them. These checks could replace some of the annual reviews which take place in Brussels.

Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I)

2001/0296(COD) - 25/03/2002

The Council agreed on a general approach, pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, on the revision of the guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks which have been in force since 1997. It instructed the Presidency to forward this approach informally to the Parliament with a view to reaching an agreement between the co-legislators at the first reading if possible. The amendments, which mainly concern Annex I to Decision 1336/97/EC, take account of a special report from the Court of Auditors on the implementation of the Decision, plus an external evaluation, technological progress since 1997 and the expertise gained through management of the programme. These amendments concern inter alia the trans-European dimension of the projects concerned, the strategic priorities of the eEurope Action Plan, reduction of the number of areas covered by the projects, the deployment of public services and the interconnection and interoperability of the networks.

Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I)

2001/0296(COD) - 14/05/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament, using its procedure without debate, adopted the report by Colette Fischer (ELDR, Luxembourg) on the guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks. (Please refer to the document dated 16/04/02.) Included amongst the amendments were a definition for the term "telecommunication infrastructure, and a requirement for a report on the implementation of the Decision before 31 January 2005.

Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I)

2001/0296(COD) - 10/12/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: To revise Annex I of Decision 1336/97/EC setting out guidelines for the trans-European telecommunications networks. CONTENT: On the basis of technological developments and experience gained over the intervening years the European Commission is expected to propose and where necessary update the established guidelines on the trans-European telecommunications networks. The proposed revision of the guidelines are based on a Report submitted to the Commission by the Court of Auditors on the telecommunications networks as well as a Report submitted by independent expert evaluators. Existing guidelines are set out in Annex I of Decision No 1336/97/EC. Based on the conclusion of both these Reports, the Commission proposes the following amendment to Annex I: - Greater emphasis should be given to the trans-European dimension of Annex I through an explicit definition thereof. - A greater distinction between the TEN-Telecom and that of the Information Society Technologies programme should be made whilst at the same time seeking innovative solutions aimed at offering a sound service to public authorities; - Greater emphasis should be given to the eEurope initiative; - The list of areas covered by the guidelines will be reduced whilst at the same time support for research infrastructures will be withdrawn as well as support for generic content services such a translation and speech recognition; - Greater emphasis will be given to the promotion of eGovernment and eAdministion on a local, regional and national level in areas with a significant trans-European value. Support will be given to the

interconnection and interoperability of networks underpinning the operation of a specific application or service; - Third generation mobile technologies will receive greater support; - In terms of network security the guidelines will allow for the strengthening of security through the co-ordination of national initiatives on a European level; - In areas of public interest where there are intrinsic barriers caused by cultural differences, in particular languages, the Commission proposes increasing the EU's financial contribution to, at the highest level, 20% of the total investment. Financial considerations will be dealt with under a separate amendment to the TEN financial Regulation.

Telecommunications: trans-European networks, guidelines (rev. Decision 1336/97/EC Annex I)

2001/0296(COD) - 17/06/2002 - Modified legislative proposal

The amendments accepted by the Commission relate to : - the Council resolution on network and information security. - clarifying the scope of the action. - setting dates for a report on the implementation of the programme and a proposal for revision of the guidelines. - emphasising the contribution of the programme to its objectives. - clarifying that the programme is not restricted to commercial activity and the criteria for a trans-European service. - clarifying the requirements for participation in the programme. - clarifying considerations for the disabled citizen and for new technologies. - clarifying applications in the area of eGovernment and eAdministration. - clarifying the rationale for support to health applications. - reinforcing the subordinate nature of supplementary support and coordination actions.