Basic information

2001/2192(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States **Subject** 3.30 Information and communications in general 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	ANDREASEN Ole (ELDR)	18/09/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	FERBER Markus (PPE-DE)	01/10/2001
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	CASHMAN Michael (PSE)	21/11/2001
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2397	2001-12-10

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Communication	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/06/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0354	Summary
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/12/2001	Debate in Council		Summary

19/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
19/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0051/2002	
11/03/2002	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0109/2002	Summary
13/03/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/02/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2192(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	CULT/5/15251

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0051/2002	19/02/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0109/2002 OJ C 047 27.02.2003, p. 0089-0400 E	13/03/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0354	29/06/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0350	02/07/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1493/2001 OJ C 048 21.02.2002, p. 0109	29/11/2001	

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

2001/2192(COS) - 02/07/2002

Following a request from the European Council and the European Parliament, the Commission today agreed on a new approach to information and communication. It outlines the importance of working more closely with the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament in real partnership with the Member States to inform citizens better about European issues and to enable them to participate in European debates. For the first time decision-makers at European, national and regional level will be working together to close the European information gap. The institutions and Member States have reiterated their political will to develop a concerted information strategy on the main issues affecting the European Union. This new joint approach should lead to synergy between the different methods applied by each partner, with Member State involvement allowing the European Union to speak with one voice and also to benefit from the hitherto lacking yet crucial multiplier effect. The scale of the challenge is immense, and the means available are limited. The Commission is therefore proposing a two-pronged approach that is both realistic and gradual: - giving the European Union the capacity to formulate and disseminate messages geared to and focused on its priority issues; - establishing a voluntary working partnership with the Member States fostering genuine synergy between their structures and know-how and the activities of the European Union. The Commission welcomes and underlines the need for a greater cooperation with its partners in all areas of information and communication. In that respect, it specifically invites them to work on four key policy areas: enlargement, justice and home affairs, the future of Europe and the role of the Union in the world. The new information and communication strategy stems from a political determination shared by the three institutions, which will be given shape by the decisions of the Interinstitutional Group on Information (IGI). It implies a change of culture for each of the institutions, entailing major adjustments, especially in terms of coordination, so as to improve the provision of information and ensure that it reaches the European public. Besides the political awareness shared by the three institutions and the Member States, the proposed strategy is based on internal evaluations (consolidated result of the round table meetings organised by the representations and replies to a questionnaire from the various networks) and on preliminary external studies of the strategy itself and the state of public opinion in Europe (focus groups).

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

2001/2192(COS) - 10/12/2001

The Council welcomes the Commission communication on a new framework for cooperation on activities concerning the Information and Communication Policy of the European Union. It agrees to participate at the appropriate level in this new framework for cooperation, which represents a further stage in the process of bringing the European Union closer to its citizens. The Council wishes to contribute in a pragmatic and flexible manner to the definition at political level of those strategies, with the recognition that it will be for each Member State to determine the extent of its involvement in the concrete implementation of the activities in question. The Council should be represented in the new interinstitutional cooperation framework at political level by the Presidency-in-Office, accompanied by representatives of the Member State which will hold the following Presidency and assisted by the General Secretariat. It will be for the Working Party on Information, extended to include senior officials from national information departments or, where appropriate, in the presence of experts, to define the Council's positions in this area and to evaluate the results. The Council takes note of the Commission's intention to submit a new communication on the content of information and communication policy. The Council will decide on its priorities at the appropriate time, in the light of the powers conferred upon it by the Treaties. With respect to the organisation at operational level of cooperation between the Community institutions on information and communication, the Council favours the coordinated use of existing resources, with the emphasis on rationalisation of those resources and a desire to improve services. Audiovisual means and the Internet should receive priority consideration in view of their impact and potential. Other areas of activity such as publications, libraries, information visits, public events and media monitoring should also be the subject of synergies between the institutions. Each Community institution must have sufficient resources to enable it to inform the public of its own activities. In the case of information on the achievements of and challenges facing the European Union as a whole, the Council considers that the initiatives in question must be defined precisely, particularly from a budgetary standpoint, and must be implemented within the new framework for interinstitutional cooperation. The Council asks the Commission to submit proposals during the first half of 2002 with a view to continuing, in conjunction with interested Member States, to provide information in audiovisual format intended primarily for third countries. The Council points out that it is for the Member States to provide information on the European Union. These activities will be more effective if they are carried out in coordination with those of the Community institutions, which should produce comprehensive and objective basic information.

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

2001/2192(COS) - 29/06/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to proposes a new framework for co-operation on activities concerning the Information and Communication Policy of the European Union. CONTENT : this communication explains how inter- institutional co-operation, particularly between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council should take place; the framework is open for participation from the Council, the other institutions and the authorities of the Member States. New forms of co-operation will be established where relations with Member States, National Parliaments, Local Authorities and Civil Society are concerned. On several occasions the European Parliament has asked the Commission to establish a basis for co-operation in the field of information and communication. Likewise, the Helsinki European Council called on the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to pool their efforts to put out co-ordinated general information on the Union and to make best use of resources. The communication does not propose at this moment a

strategy for information policy. It constitutes a first step in view to build a global and coherent strategy on information and communication. It intends to launch a debate that would be concentrated on content, thus fleshing out and adapting the framework and enabling the Institutions to reach out to the citizen. The proposed framework is simple, un-bureaucratic and genuinely decentralised and is intended to create a basis of mutual trust and confidence. It takes as its starting point the autonomy and integrity of the Institutions which remain accountable for their actions and fully responsible for their contacts with the press and media. The framework proposes co-operation at : - the political level in the form of the Inter-Institutional Group on Information - at present composed by members of the Commission and the European Parliament - which will define and oversee general guidelines and priorities; - the operational level, i.e. the services responsible for information activities and instruments of both Institutions and; - the decentralised level at which execution takes place in the Member states, i.e. Commission Representations and Parliament External Offices. Regular consultations, information exchanges and reporting will be used to assure that the parties are aware of planned activities at all times. A wide range of instruments, means and ways of information will be employed. The main vehicles of information are described in the annex to the communication. All above activities and instruments will be subject to permanent evaluation in order to increase the effectiveness of the work carried out.

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

2001/2192(COS) - 13/03/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Ole ANDREASEN (ELDR, Denmark) on a new framework for co-operation on information policy. (Please refer to document dated 19/02/02). Members also expressed concern at the planned decrease in the overall multiannual estimate of expenditure on information and communication in the Commission (the B-3 budget lines). Parliament stressed the general need to match the available information more closely with the main target groups such as women, young people between 16 and 20, the elderly, rural communities, children, teachers, SME's, professional decision-makers and opinion formers. The need to make information more easily avialble to journalists was also emphasised. European Institutions should develop specific training programmes related to European mechanisms and issues for future journalists. A "civic education" unit should be established within the Parliament with sufficient resources in order to act as a centre for all matters relating to education for European citizenship, as well as a centre for European level exchanges between different project operators and promoters in the EU and applicant countries.