Basic information

2002/2242(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Information society, eEurope 2005: action plan, Seville European Council, 21-22 June 2002 **Subject** 3.30.25.02 Information programmes and action plans	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	PAASILINNA Reino (PSE)	09/07/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	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
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2485	2003-02-18
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2492	2003-03-06
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2472	2002-12-05
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2438	2002-06-17

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Communications Networks, Content and Technology	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/05/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0263	Summary
17/06/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		

21/11/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/12/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
23/01/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
23/01/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0013/2003	
12/02/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0056/2003	Summary
12/02/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/02/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
06/03/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
19/02/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2242(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/16910

Information society, eEurope 2005: action plan, Seville European Council, 21-22 June 2002

2002/2242(INI) - 11/02/2003 - Follow-up document

The European Commission has presented this document which hightlights the achievement of eEurope and identifies remaining obstacles to the full development of the information society in Europe. The report states that this is a long run process and achieving it in 2 years was beyond the scope of eEurope 2002. Overall, this evaluation has shown that eEurope 2002 achieved its main objectives and that these represent important steps towards the knowledge-based economy which is at the centre of the Lisbon strategy. To summarise: - Internet connectivity has grown rapidly. When eEurope was launched, few had access to the Internet. In 2002, more than 90% of schools and businesses are online and more than half of Europeans are regular users. Europe now has the fastest backbone research network in the world. Widespread take up of high-speed connections by households and SMEs is going to be the next challenge. There are still significant differences in connectivity between Member States; - A legislative framework for electronic communications and for e-commerce has been agreed. Telecom legislation has been designed to strengthen competition in the market and thereby reduce prices and to stimulate innovation. Prices have fallen and that competition has been improving. As regards e-commerce, a series of directives have been adopted to increase certainty in e-commerce transactions, in particular cross-border trade, and to ensure an adequate level of consumer protection; - Increasing effective use of the Internet is the focus of the next step, eEurope 2005. This means for example, more firms to use e-commerce; schools not only connected but also making full use of the Internet in class; government services offered online as well as fully interactive, more use in the health sector where there are great demands for up-to-date information. The report also states that more training is needed for the benefit both of workers and companies. Lastly, action must be taken to address the current gaps in access and use of digital technologies so to ensure that all Europeans have the opportunity to take advantage of them for their social and working life.

Information society, eEurope 2005: action plan, Seville European Council, 21-22 June 2002

2002/2242(INI) - 17/05/2004 - Follow-up document

The eEurope Action Plan was set up within the framework of the Lisbon Agenda. It seeks to encourage and facilitate the uptake of Internet use for both commercial and domestic users. In February 2004 the Telecom Council adopted the mid-term review of the Action Plan. The present Commission Communication follows up on the mid-term review by proposing a set of revisions to the eEurope Action Plan 2005, through the creation of fifteen additional actions. The new actions seek to complement the existing ones in a bid to speed up the implementation of the Action Plan. The new Actions do not substantially change the balance or structure of eEurope.

The fifteen Actions proposed are:

1) The adoption of national broadband strategies by the new Member States by the end of 2004.

2) The setting up of the "Digital Divide Forum" during 2004. This will provide input to the Commission report on the "Growth Initiative" in spring 2005.

3) Preparing a progress report on the uptake of the Internet Protocol Ipv6. Greater commercial and domestic up-take of the Internet is dependant on a network of security. Together with the implementation of the broadband strategy, many of the Member States have already created National Ipv6 Task Forces, which seek to facilitate the uptake of the new version of the Internet Protocol and include compliance with Ipv6 in public tendering.

4) Identification, by the end of 2005, of a detailed list of priorities for a wide deployment of ICT solutions for the delivery of public services in Europe. The emphasis here would be on establishing a commitment to common platforms and/or standards for the deployment of e-services on a voluntary and multilateral basis.

5) Bringing e-government good practice solutions to full operational use by the middle of 2005. Local, regional, national, European and international level experiences can help fulfil the objectives of this Action. Measures include, providing good practice exchanges; addressing issues such as the ownership of systems and how this may relate to tendering procedures and the engagement of public-private partnership.

6) Creating an inventory of best practices on interoperability in e-health. It is hoped that this action will encourage the Member States to develop, by the end of 2005, a national or regional roadmap for e-health. This roadmap should focus on setting targets for the interoperability and use of electronic health records and issues such as the reimbursement of e-health services.

7) Establishing, by 2005, a roadmap of activities to foster closer co-operation between educators, trainers, researchers, those working in industry and public sector workers. This action seeks to encourage lifelong learning services based on e-learning. This activity will be launched at a conference at the beginning of 2005.

8) Continued promotion of e-Signatures. The Commission will present a report analysing the operational effects of the e-Signature Directive.

9) Endorsing a blueprint for Mobile payments by the end of 2005. The blueprint will seek to set priorities and to identify a pragmatic roadmap for interoperable mobile payments, taking into account existing initiatives on standardisation work. For it to be effective, the Blueprint should be endorsed by a critical mass of market actors in both the financial and the telecommunications sectors.

10) This Action deals with "Digital Rights Management", in other words control of copyright on the Internet. Currently, market developers are being held back by a lack of consensus between stakeholders on implementation of DRM in relation to factors such as interoperability and standardisation, privacy concerns of consumers, finding the right balance between remuneration for private use and the application of technological protection measures. In order to address these issues, Action 10 has been devised, to provide an overview of technological, economic and legal challenges to DRM as well as offering recommendation on how to move beyond dialogue to action. The review will be undertaken by the "High Level Group on Digital Rights Management" and will be presented in 2004.

11) Creating favourable conditions for an "Enterprise Interoperability Centre" and to make the Centre operational by end of 2005.

12) Creating a database of SME best practices regarding e-businesses by the end 2005.

13) Establishing the priorities of e-inclusion by the end of 2005. Policy areas to be examined will include employment, education, training, R&D etc. As an overall strategy, the Commission will examine a more coherent, strategic and integrated approach to e-inclusion.

14) Implementation of "e-Europe on-line". This is an integrated web-platform for eEurope and is supported by a flexible response data gathering and reporting mechanism. The action has two components. The first is an integrated web-based information service on e-Europe. This produces benchmarking data and links to other relevant sources. In 2005, the page will also provide an analysis of official statistics. The second is a response data gathering and reporting mechanism.

15) Submitting, prior to the European Council in 2005, a strategic analysis of eEurope in the context of the synthesis report and orientations on the support of ICT to the Lisbon strategy and how this is helping achieve the Agenda's goal in its second phase leading up to 2010.

To conclude, in a bid to identify pathways towards progress, the Commission is proposing a series of actions with an emphasis on stakeholder dialogue and an exchange of best practice – rather than radically overhauling the whole Action Plan. In addition, the Commission is proposing a period of evaluation and review before any successor to eEurope is proposed. Making the eEurope Action Plan fully effective, however, requires the full engagement of the Member States. The Commission, therefore, calls on all 25 of the EU Member States to play a full and active role in assuring the success of the new initiatives proposed and in particular with regard to the deployment of new services in e-government, e-learning and e-health.

Information society, eEurope 2005: action plan, Seville European Council, 21-22 June 2002

2002/2242(INI) - 28/05/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a Communication from the Commission on the Action Plan entitled "eEurope 2005: An information society for all" to be presented in view of the Sevilla European Council, 21/22 June 2002. CONTENT : the new Action Plan aims to provide a favourable environment for private investment and for the creation of new jobs, to boost productivity, to modernise public services and notably education, and last but not least to give everyone the opportunity to participate in the global information society. This is the key message behind this action plan. eEurope 2005 is a crucial

step towards the 'Lisbon goal' of turning Europe into the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy by 2010. It represents a focusing of our activities on those areas where public authorities can improve the environment for investment and ensure that the benefits of the Information Society are felt by all Europeans in the years to come. Broadband-enabled communication will bring social as well as economic benefits. It will contribute to inclusion, cohesion and cultural diversity. It offers the potential to improve and simplify the life of all Europeans and to change the way people interact, not just at work, but also with friends, family, commmunity and institutions and the way companies operate. This is what users are interested in and this is where eEurope 2005 starts from. Whereas the earlier eEurope 2002 Action Plan focuses on extending internet connectivity across Europe, eEurope 2005 will concentrate on translating this into improved economic productivity and better, more accessible services for all European citizens, underpinned by secure, widely available broadband infrastructure. During eEurope 2002, progress was made towards the Lisbon goal on a wide front, ranging from a doubling of the proportion of homes with Internet access to the launch of the fastest research backbone network in the world. eEurope 2005 - to be presented to the Seville European Council this June - is more focused, setting the following main goals for Europe by 2005. The Action Plan has two groups of actions that reinforce each other. On the one hand services, applications and content, covering both online public services and e-business. On the other hand the underlying broadband infrastructure and security matters. By 2005 Europe should have: - modern online public services, particularly e-government, e-learning and e-health; - a dynamic e-business environment; - widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices; - a secure information infrastructure. 1) Firstly, policy measures to review and adapt legislation at national and European level; to ensure legislation does not unnecessarily hamper new services; to strengthen competition and interoperability; to improve access to a variety of networks; and, to demonstrate political leadership. eEurope 2005 identifies those areas where public policy can provide an added value and therefore focuses on a limited set of actions in priority areas. Some key targets are: - Connecting public administrations, schools, health care tobroadband; - Interactive public services, accessible for all, and offered on multiple platforms; - Provide online health services; - Removal of obstacles to the deployment of broadband networks; - Review of legislation affecting e-business; - Creation of a Cyber Security Task Force; 2) eEurope will facilitate the exchange of experience, of good practices and demonstration projects, but also of sharing the lessons from failures. Projects will be launched to accelerate the roll-out of leading edge applications and infrastructure. 3) policy measures will be monitored and better focussed by benchmarking of the progress made in achieving the objectives and of the policies in support of the objectives. 4) an overall co-ordination of existing policies will bring out synergies between proposed actions. A steering group will provide a better overview of policy developments and ensure a good information exchange between national and European policy makers and the private sector. This steering group would also make an early participation of candidate countries possible. In conclusion, this action plan is a proposal to Member States to take some far-reaching commitments. It is an invitation to the private sector to work with the Commission and Member States to realise the eEurope objectives. It sets out the initiatives the Commission will or is willing to take. Overall the action plan sets the scene for a co-ordinated European policy approach on information society issues. The eEurope action plan has been confirmed as a key element in the Lisbon strategy.

Information society, eEurope 2005: action plan, Seville European Council, 21-22 June 2002

2002/2242(INI) - 18/02/2004 - Follow-up document

In this present communication, the Commission states that at mid-term of the eEurope 2005 Action Plan important progress has been made. Significant developments in the areas of broadband and e-government have been supported by increased political support at the national and EU levels. Achieving the goals of eEurope 2005 requires strong political leadership and commitment at all levels. There are many areas of success - broadband connectivity is rising, government services are increasingly fully on-line.. However, in many fields progress is still supply driven, concentrating on technology, applications and initiatives. A concerted effort is needed from all sides if we are to achieve the productivity gains and job creation expected from eEurope. This push to maturity means emphasising the delivery of solutions and on scaling up fast from success stories to critical mass. According to the Commission, the specific areas that require greater focus and will be important in the revision of the action plan are: - interoperability, standards and multi-platform access emerged in all areas as requiring greater focus. In many cases the key requirement is not technical solutions but the setting up of multi-party or institutional agreements; - reinforcement of the pan-European dimension. Most initiatives remain nationally or regionally focused. The possibilities for cross-border learning and exchange are widely recognised but less often acted upon. Difficulties of interoperability persist or are even multiplied by the profusion of efforts. Opportunities to close the gap between leaders and followers through a more effective exchange of practices are missed; - a move to a demand-driven approach that emphasises service delivery, end-user value for all and functionality. In e-business, e-government, e-health and e-learning it is clear that there are many good initiatives, but so far the ways to bring really effective services on-line or their adequacy to the end-user are not fully understood; - a prerequisite for further development of broadband is a greater availability of attractive content. This requires attention to the protection of copyrighted content and the implementation of interoperable DRM solutions, whilst respecting the legitimate expectations of users; - experimentation with new business and service delivery models that get more value out of the shift to e-services. e-Services generally yield more productivity and efficiency gains when embedded in effective re-organisation of processes and service delivery; - respond to the need for greater monitoring and quantification of e-inclusion, especially in order to assess the extent of regional imbalances, the potential for and the potential for multiplatform delivery of e-services to widen accessibility; - finally, the impact of e-services in terms of efficiency or productivity gains and quality of work and life should be measured, taking into account effects on citizenship and governance. In particular, there is a need for structured analyses of lessons to develop complementary quantitative and qualitative indicators as part of the benchmarking exercise. Common work is required to identify the obstacles to progress and guidance on implementation. Also needed are more evaluations ofinitiatives so that policy can be guided by evidence. The Commission recommends the continuation of the existing lines of the 2005 Action Plan. The review found that the existing goals are still valid and that the Acceding Countries are open to accepting them. Furthermore, it is to be expected that the 6th Framework Programme for Research & Development will contribute to the implementation of the eEurope Action Plan mainly through the Information Society Technologies part of the Programme. A thorough evaluation of the impact of eEurope 2005 will take place to be discussed and agreed with Member States during 2004. The Commission requests the Member States and Acceding Countries should give comments upon the document and play an active role in the process of revising the Action Plan until June 2004.

Information society, eEurope 2005: action plan, Seville European Council, 21-22 June 2002

2002/2242(INI) - 12/02/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Reino PAASILINNA (PES, Finland) on the information society. (Please refer to the summary of 23/01/03.) In addition, Parliament wanted the Commission to investigate the possibilities of developing adult education dealing with the skills required in the information society, as well as a common European diploma to measure these skills, when moving to the next stages of the new technology. It went on to encourage the development of the European health card (subject to the consent of citizens concerned) which will replace the various documents for medical and pharmaceutical care in another Member State. This should reduce the obstacles to mobility within the Union. The European Parliament also emphasised the need for: - additional support to SME's in "going digital"; - investigating opportunities for establishing national funds to help marginalised groups and socially excluded citizens, to become integrated into the information society; - investigating the ways in which the development of innovative broadband services can be promoted through tax concessions, or demand stimulated; - promoting the development of European-specific operating systems and software both of which should fully take into account the needs of vulnerable groups including disabled and elderly users; - supporting state-of-the-art encrypting, confidentiality and data security projects as well as developing associated software and programmes.