Basic information

2003/2090(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Telecommunications: implementation of the regulatory package. 8th report 2002 **Subject** 3.30.03 Telecommunications, data transmission, telephone	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	CLEGG Nicholas (ELDR)	23/01/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	HARBOUR Malcolm (PPE-DE)	18/03/2003

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2472	2002-12-05

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Communications Networks, Content and Technology	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/12/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0695	Summary
05/12/2002	Debate in Council		
15/05/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
04/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0376/2003	
17/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
18/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0496/2003	Summary

18/11/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2090(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/5/19533

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0376/2003	04/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0496/2003 OJ C 087 07.04.2004, p. 0024-0065 E	18/11/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0695	03/12/2002	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)1329	03/12/2002	

Telecommunications: implementation of the regulatory package. 8th report 2002

2003/2090(INI) - 18/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Nick CLEGG (ELDR, United Kingdom) on the Commission's report on the telecommunications package. (Please see the document of 04/11/03.) Parliament also called on NRAs to act when short-term price reductions by incumbents inhibit the development of competitive market conditions in the long term. With regard to the telecoms sector, Parliament felt that facilities-based competition in which competition service providers invest in their own infrastructure generally yields better results for consumers and lays the foundations for sustainable competition. The emphasis on access-based competition (e.g. resale, local loop unbundling, bit-stream access) should not be regarded as an end in itself but as a route to fuller facilities-based competition. Moving on, Parliament stated that National Regulatory Authorities should be fully independent and properly resourced, that they have the necessary powers to carry out their functions. They should be capable of taking a proactive role so as to stimulate sector competition. The Commission should take a forward-looking and highly active role in the way in which the ERG interprets its regulatory tasks. Finally, Parliament emphasized the importance of speedy determination of appeals against NRAs' decisions. All Member States must have effective dispute resolution procedures in place.

Telecommunications: implementation of the regulatory package. 8th report 2002

2003/2090(INI) - 03/12/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a report on the state of implementation of the current telecommunications regulatory framework. CONTENT : this is the eighth report on the EU's telecommunications regulatory package. Its purpose is to assess and analyse both the state of the telecommunications market, as well, as examining the EU regulatory framework vis-à-vis telecommunications. The state of preparation by the Member States regarding the transposition of new regulations into national law is also scrutinized. In this Report, the Commission notes that it is four and a half years since the telecommunications market was fully liberalised. A cursory overview shows that competition in European telecommunications markets has driven growth and innovation. Further, the public have benefited from the widespread availability of services. In light of the overall economic downturn and the bursting of the dotcom bubble the telecommunications market is somewhat fragile. Yet, in spite of this, its growth over the past year has still remained positive. Realistic estimates of growth in the telecom services market for 2002 in the combined national markets of the 15 Member States vary from around 5% to 7% - a very healthy outlook in view of the average projected EU GDP growth of 1.0% for 2002. Other observations note that: - Carrier pre-selection has proved a highly successful means of opening competition in the fixed market. - There has been a 42% increase in the number of infrastructure-based fixed access operators between August 2001 and August 2002, with 50 more in the market. - For consumers there has been an overall fall in prices over the same period - a 5% fall in the cost of national fixed call and a 4% fall in international call prices since last year. - Prices charged by new entrant players are significantly lower than those of incumbent operators. - Competition in the retail mobile call market has brought average monthly consumer charges down by 23% over the period 2000-2002. - While incumbent fixed operators lost market share for long-distance and international calls during 2001, their share of the local market stabilised at around 89% of the market in terms of retail revenues. - Penetration in the EU digital TV market rose slightly in 2002 to 21%. In terms of the Report's assessment of key regulatory movements, the Commission notes that the adoption of new sector specific regulations designed to enhance competition and converge electronic communication technologies will be a priority in the coming years. Overall the Report concludes that after four and a half years of liberalisation the regulations put in place at the national level is, more or less, compliant with the EU framework. Licensing and interconnection regimes have permitted large-scale market entry, complemented by carrier pre-selection and number portability; delivery times for leased lines have continued to fall; and progress has been made in developing appropriate costing methodologies for the enforcement of EU tariff principles. Areas in need of further work by the national authorities relate to pricing policy and access issues regarding local loop unbundling. Full implementation both of cost-orientation and non-discrimination principles are essentialin this regard, and should extend to interconnection and the provision of leased lines, including interconnection leased lines. Lastly, the Commission calls on governments to assist in areas such as electronic communication services by examining a number of additional burdens on the sector in the form of specific taxes on telecommunications services, disproportionate fees for the placing of infrastructure, including mobile antennas on public land and radio emission restriction stricter than those recommend at the European level.