Basic information

2013/2080(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Regulatory framework for electronic communications. Implementation report **Subject** 2.40 Free movement of services, freedom to provide 3.30.05 Electronic and mobile communications, personal communications 4.60.06 Consumers' economic and legal interests	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	TRAUTMANN Catherine (S&D)	24/04/2013
	Shadow rapporteur HÖKMARK Gunnar (PPE) VĂLEAN Adina (ALDE) ANDERSDOTTER Amelia (Verts/ALE) CHICHESTER Giles (ECR)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	HARBOUR Malcolm (ECR)	29/05/2013

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Communications Networks, Content and Technology	KROES Neelie

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/06/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/09/2013	Vote in committee		
01/10/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0313/2013	Summary
24/10/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0454/2013	Summary

24/10/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/10/2013	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2013/2080(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/7/12552

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE514.610	19/06/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE514.877	04/09/2013	
Committee opinion	IMCO	PE510.798	09/09/2013	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0313/2013	01/10/2013	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0454/2013	24/10/2013	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2014)62	07/03/2014	

Regulatory framework for electronic communications. Implementation report

2013/2080(INI) - 01/10/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted the own-initiative report by Catherine TRAUTMANN (S&D, FR) on Implementation report on the regulatory framework for electronic communications.

Regretting the delay by Member States in transposing the 2009 changes to the regulatory framework for electronic communications, Members drew attention to the fragmentation of the internal market in communications.

They support a **competitive European market in high-speed broadband services** and stated that the review of the regulatory framework should following these objectives:

- ensure that consumers have access to comprehensive and comprehensible information on internet connection speeds to enable them to compare the services offered by different operators;

- ensure that fully substitutable services are subject to the same rules;
- further promote effective and sustainable competition, which is the main driver of efficient investment over time;
- increase competition on the European high-speed broadband market;
- provide a stable and sustainable framework for investment;
- ensure harmonised, consistent and effective application;
- facilitate the development of pan-European providers and the provision of crossborder business services;
- ensure that the framework is fit for the digital age and delivers an internet ecosystem that support the entire economy;
- increase user confidence in the internal market in communications, including through measures to implement the future regulatory framework for the protection of personal data and measures to increase the security of electronic communications on the internal market.

The report insisted in particular for the following aspects to be considered in a review of the entire regulatory framework:

- the **overdue review of the universal service obligation**, including the obligation to offer broadband internet access at a fair price in response to the urgent need to reduce the digital divide;
- the **competence of NRAs** for all issues, including spectrum, that are addressed by the framework;
- cooperation between the NRAs and national competition authorities;
- the **symmetric obligations relating to network access** (Article 12 FD);
- the impact of services that are fully substitutable to those provided by traditional providers;
- identification of transnational markets, as a first step at least with respect to business services;
- **BEREC and its functioning** as well as the extension of the scope of its competences;
- freedom of access to content for all and **net neutrality building**;
- the regulation of equipment, including bundling of equipment and operating systems;
- recent global developments in cybersecurity and cyberespionage.

Members are convinced that **increased spectrum coordination** combined with the application of common principles for spectrum use rights across the Union would constitute a key remedy for tackling the problem of lack of predictability regarding spectrum availability, thus encouraging investment and economies of scale. The report emphasised that a pan-European auctioning of **4G and 5G wireless services**, with a limited number of licensees collectively serving the whole territory of the EU, would enable pan-European wireless services, eroding the bases upon which roaming is built.

Member States are invited to give the **consumer** aspects of electronic communications a much higher priority. In this regard, Members stressed the importance of:

- enhanced consumer information requirements regarding service restrictions, device subsidies and traffic management;
- ensure consistent enforcement of the ban on misleading advertising;
- switching, ease of number portability in a dynamic market, contract transparency and provision of information to consumers regarding contract changes;
- implementing reinforced requirements for equivalent access for disabled users.

As regards the 112 common emergency telephone number, Members called for improvements regarding caller location response time. They welcomed the Commission’s work on the practical implementation of the 116 numbers, especially the missing child hotline (116000) and also called for better promotion of these numbers by the Commission.

Regulatory framework for electronic communications. Implementation report

2013/2080(INI) - 24/10/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the implementation report on the regulatory framework for electronic communications.

Parliament underlined the fact that while the framework has made substantial progress towards achieving its aims, the **EU telecoms market remains fragmented** along national borders, making it difficult for businesses and citizens to fully benefit from a single market. It considered that only by having a **competitive European market in high speed broadband services** can innovation, economic growth and job creation be stimulated and competitive prices offered to end users.

According to the resolution, the revision of the regulatory framework should follow these objectives:

- ensure that consumers have access to comprehensive and comprehensible information on internet connection speeds to enable them to compare the services offered by different operators;
- ensure that fully substitutable services are subject to the same rules;
- further promote effective and sustainable competition, which is the main driver of efficient investment over time;
- increase competition on the European high-speed broadband market;
- provide a stable and sustainable framework for investment;
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- facilitate the development of pan-European providers and the provision of crossborder business services;
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- recent global developments in cybersecurity and cyberespionage.

Consistency, regulatory certainty and competition: Members considered that all the provisions proposed by the Commission, including a single European authorisation, consumer aspects and technical arrangements for spectrum auctions, could play an important role with a view to creating a single market for communications, but that they need to be assessed in the light of that objective to maintain consistency and provide regulatory certainty so as to ensure fair and balanced competition in which European players stand every chance.

Spectrum coordination: Members are convinced that **increased spectrum coordination** combined with the application of common principles for spectrum use rights across the Union would constitute a key remedy for tackling the problem of lack of predictability regarding spectrum availability, thus encouraging investment and economies of scale. They emphasised that a pan-European auctioning of **4G and 5G wireless services**, with a limited number of licensees collectively serving the whole territory of the EU, would enable pan-European wireless services, eroding the bases upon which roaming is built.

Stimulating innovation: Members called for a mix of different measures and all available technologies should be explored and offered to consumers, so as to prevent the deterioration of service, the blocking of access and the slowing of traffic over networks.

Consumer protection: Member States are invited to give the **consumer** aspects of electronic communications a much higher priority. In this regard, Members stressed the importance of:

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- ensure consistent enforcement of the ban on misleading advertising;
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As regards the **112 common emergency telephone number**, Members called for improvements regarding caller location response time. They welcomed the Commission’s work on the practical implementation of the 116 numbers, especially the missing child hotline (116000) and also called for better promotion of these numbers by the Commission.