


Basic information	
2010/2028(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure Public service broadcasting in the digital era: the future of the dual system Subject 3.30.04 Radiocommunications, broadcasting 3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies 3.30.25 International information networks and society, internet	Procedure completed

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture and Education	BELET Ivo (PPE)	30/11/2009
		Shadow rapporteur KAMMEREVERT Petra (S&D) SCHAAKE Marietje (ALDE) KIRKHOPE Timothy (ECR) SOINI Timo (EFD)	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Communications Networks, Content and Technology	KROES Neelie	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/02/2010	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/09/2010	Vote in committee		Summary
11/10/2010	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0286/2010	
22/11/2010	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	
25/11/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0438/2010	Summary
25/11/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
25/11/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2010/2028(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	CULT/7/02205

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE442.905	03/06/2010	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE442.961	08/07/2010	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0286/2010	11/10/2010	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0438/2010	25/11/2010	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2011)1476	02/05/2011	

Public service broadcasting in the digital era: the future of the dual system

2010/2028(INI) - 25/11/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 522 votes to 22, with 62 abstentions, a resolution on public service broadcasting in the digital era: the future of the dual system.

Recalling the crucial role that broadcasting plays with regard to European audiovisual production, the resolution notes that the co-existence of public service and commercial broadcasters has ensured a diverse range of freely accessible programming, which benefits all EU citizens and contributes to media pluralism, cultural and linguistic diversity, editorial competition (in terms of content quality and diversity) and freedom of expression,

Members reaffirm their commitment to the **dual broadcasting system**, in which private and public service media play their respective roles, independent of political and economic pressure, and call for access to broadcasting of the highest level to be ensured irrespective of consumers' and users' ability to pay. They reiterate the need to **maintain strong and vibrant independent public service broadcasting**, whilst adapting it to the requirements of the digital age, and calls for specific measures to be taken to attain this objective.

Member States are invited to:

- **ensure that there are sufficient resources** to enable public service broadcasters to take advantage of the new digital technologies and to secure the benefits of modern audiovisual services for the general public;
- **address the digital divide** – for example between urban and rural areas – and to ensure that, with digitisation, all individuals in all regions have equal access to public service broadcasting;
- consider the possibility of **making it easier for consumers to switch** from analogue to digital television;
- **define the remits of public service broadcasters** so that they can retain their distinctiveness through a commitment to original audiovisual production and high-quality programming and journalism regardless of commercial considerations or political influence;
- maintain a **balance amongst the digital media services on offer**, to ensure fair competition between public service broadcasting and private media
- **intensify the cooperation** between national media regulators within the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA) and step up the exchange of experience and best practice in relation to their respective national broadcasting systems.

Recalling the commitments made in the context of the Council and Council of Europe, Parliament recommends that Member States **respect European standards** and provide appropriate, proportionate and stable funding for public service media. It calls on the Commission and the Member States to give the European Audiovisual Observatory a mandate to gather data and carry out research on the way in which the Member States have applied these standards. It urges that Member States be held accountable for failing to fulfil these commitments.

Parliament invites the Member States to **deal with the problem of insufficient financing**. It recalls the financial instruments offered by the EIB, and encourages public service broadcasters facing financial difficulties to apply for a soft loan from the EIB for the renewal of their infrastructure, particularly in connection with digitisation and innovation.

Members encourage the various stakeholders **to intensify their cooperation with a view to safeguarding the dual system** and, in particular, encourage public service and private broadcasters to cooperate with one another and with publishers in relation to content-sharing and innovative projects and to find ways of working together.

The Commission is invited to:

- adapt copyright to the new digital era,
- launch an initiative bringing together different media actors in order to help identify possible areas of cooperation, facilitate exchanges of best practice and address relevant issues;
- ensure that content aggregators comply with the existing legal framework, and calls on it to consider ways in which search engines and internet service providers could contribute to the financing of content creation.

Lastly, Parliament underlines the importance of media education for the responsible use of services provided by content aggregators.