

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1995/0156(CNS)	Procedure completed
Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme		
Subject 3.30.25.02 Information programmes and action plans		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	PSE BERÈS Pervenche	06/04/1995
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	PPE TILLICH Stanislaw	18/07/1995
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	ELDR PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL Ely	19/07/1995
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	REGI Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		
	CONT Budgetary Control	UPE DE LUCA Stefano	06/09/1995
	FEMM Women's Rights	PPE BENNASAR TOUS Francisca	24/11/1995
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Industry	1926	20/05/1996
	Telecommunications	1888	27/11/1995

Key events			
30/06/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0149	Summary
22/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

21/02/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
21/02/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0052/1996	
27/03/1996	Debate in Parliament		
28/03/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0154/1996	Summary
14/05/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0188	Summary
20/05/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		Summary
20/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/05/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0156(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 163; EC before Amsterdam E 130-p3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/07071

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0149 OJ C 250 26.09.1995, p. 0004	30/06/1995	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1455/1995 OJ C 082 19.03.1996, p. 0036	21/12/1995	ESC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0022/1996 OJ C 129 02.05.1996, p. 0039	17/01/1996	CofR	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0052/1996 OJ C 096 01.04.1996, p. 0003	21/02/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0154/1996 OJ C 117 22.04.1996, p. 0031-0037	28/03/1996	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0188 OJ C 215 25.07.1996, p. 0010	14/05/1996	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(1999)0135	23/03/1999	EC	
Follow-up document	COM(2001)0276	28/05/2001	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

[Decision 1996/339](#)
[OJ L 129 30.05.1996, p. 0024](#) Summary

Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

OBJECTIVE: . To promote the development of a European multimedia content industry; . To optimise the contribution of the new information services to growth, competitiveness and employment in Europe and to the professional, social and cultural development of the citizens of Europe. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Proposal for a Council decision adopting a multiannual Community programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging information society (INFO 2000). **SUBSTANCE:** . The programme covers a period of four years (1 January 1996 to 31 December 1999); . To fulfill the objectives of the programme, the following measures shall be undertaken under the guidance of the Commission: - stimulating demand and raising awareness: creating new markets by raising awareness at European level with specific user groups; encouraging clusters of pan-European users; - exploiting European public sector information: developing policies to access and exploit European public sector information; linking directories of European public sector information; making use of content resources in the public sector; - triggering European multimedia potential: catalysing new high-quality European multimedia content; trading multimedia intellectual property rights; developing and exchanging best practice; - actions to support the programme: observing and analysing the market; spreading the use of standards; encouraging skills development at European level; . The programme will be executed through indirect action and on a shared-cost basis (the financial contribution shall not normally exceed 50 % of the cost of the project, with progressively lower participation the nearer the project is to the market place). The selection of projects will be based on the procedure of calls for proposals published in the Official Journal of the European Communities; . Participation in the programme may be open to legal entities established in third countries, without financial support by the Community, where such participation contributes to the implementation of the programme and taking into account the principle of mutual benefit; . The Commission shall be assisted by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the representative of the Commission; . Half way through and at the end of the programme, the Commission shall submit to the Council, the EP, the ESC and the Committee of the Regions an evaluation report drawn up by independent experts. ?

Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

The Committee fears that the Commission is generally tending to underestimate the possible socio-economic consequences of excessive mass media concentration or of the inability to guarantee a plurality of sources of information. While the principles of liberalization, deregulation, competitiveness etc. are actively supported by the Commission, it is a source of great concern that the standards to be observed within the regulatory framework have not yet been established. Although the ESC fully supports the INFO 2000 Programme's stated objectives, it cannot but regret that the content of the draft Programme fails fully to meet the stated objectives: its overall direction is sometimes vague and its scope is not fully defined. Acknowledging the importance and relevance of a speedy Community initiative on the information-content industry, the ESC therefore urges the Commission to consider whether it should, as clearly as possible, make the following points in the programme: - Given the correlation with other Community programmes in the information sector, the ESC believes that INFO 2000 should be viewed as an instrument for closer overall coordination. - In view of the meagre overall funding, at least for the first four-year period, the percentage distribution between the various Action Lines should be altered so as to trigger the greatest possible European potential. - In the interests of preventing excessive dilution of the limited resources and of attaining maximum action efficiency, the number of possible projects should be reduced to a minimum applying their workability as the criterion and giving priority to those of a social nature. ?

Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

The Committee of the Regions very much welcomed the proposed INFO 2000 programme, which was part of an integral strategy designed to create a European information society. However, it did express fears that budget limitations would prevent the programme from achieving all its targets. Given these concerns it was essential that the INFO 2000 programme be treated as complementary to other programmes in connection with the information society. The CoR also considered that it was important for the Commission to involve itself in the INFO 2000 programme when it was clear that any action undertaken at European level brought added value. It was important to see that this work was included as a supplement to that being carried out at local, regional and national level and also to ensure that the principle of subsidiarity was being applied. Close cooperation was also needed with the European Union's CONEX programme. Close ties with local and regional authorities were essential for the programme, especially as far as public sector information was concerned. The CoR wished to underline the fact that commercial ventures could be undertaken both by the private sector and by the public sector. Local and regional authorities also had a vital contribution to make when it came to raising awareness and stimulating demand at the level of the multimedia content industry and the strategic areas that sought to develop the multimedia potential (cultural heritage, services for SMEs and geographical information) representing all the political domains in which local and regional authorities had a key role to play. The CoR stressed the importance of the information society in economic, social and cultural terms and pointed out that the aspect of cultural and linguistic diversity had to be taken into consideration when developing a European multimedia content industry. The CoR greatly welcomed the efforts being made within the context of the INFO 2000 programme to prevent the emergence of information-rich and information-poor regions by focusing special attention on the less-favoured and outlying parts of the Community when it came to certain action lines.

Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

The vote on the INFO2000 programme (report by Mrs Pervenche BERES (PSE, F)), which was intended to stimulate the development of a European multimedia industry, has given rise to more than fifty amendments whose purpose was to clarify what the Economic Committee and the advisory committees expect from such a programme. The general direction of these amendments was to prevent the INFO2000 programme from being restricted to a limited number of private users and make it of greater benefit to public institutions and organisations. The Economic Committee has been very reserved about the means proposed by the Commission to make use of information sources held by

the public sector and has ruled out the assumption that this information would be used by the private sector alone. In addition, emphasis was put on the role which the INFO2000 programme would play in meeting the specific needs of the European multimedia market, which was culturally and linguistically fragmented. ?

Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

In adopting the report by Mrs Pervenche BERES (PSE, F), Parliament approved the Info 2000 programme for the European multimedia industry, subject to around fifty amendments aimed at emphasizing the concept of minimum levels of service to be provided by the multimedia (access, equal treatment, etc.), encouraging linguistic pluralism and ensuring that support is provided exclusively for EU undertakings. Parliament wishes actions under the programme to: - support the development of applications serving the public interest (health, education, training and regional planning for less-favoured regions); - give access to associations and NGOs; - give priority to the interests of citizens; - help reduce the risk of exclusion and inequality between regions; - be conducted in synergy with programmes covered by the fourth framework programme on research and development (1994-1998). Moreover, Parliament considers that it is necessary to coordinate efforts at international level to combat the abuse of multimedia content (e.g. in connection with racism, illegal pornography and criminal offences). Finally, activities conducted in cooperation with non-Community countries should be established on the basis of strict reciprocity. ?

Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

The amended proposal for a decision on the adoption of the INFO 2000 programme took over, in full or in part, 24 of the 52 amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading. In this context, the main amendments introduced by the Commission aimed to: - stress the importance of respect for linguistic pluralism; - point out that the measures under the programme should help reduce the risk of exclusion; - specify that cinema and television were included in the audiovisual sector; - emphasise the synergy between the INFO 2000 programme and other Community programmes or initiatives; - extend the Commission's responsibility to the granting of financial aid; - redefine the scope of the comitology procedure; - improve the title of Action line 2 (making good use by the multimedia industry of information held by the public sector); - specify the fields involved in certain pilot projects; - insist on particular encouragement for the development of multimedia services for SMEs amongst the measures aimed at developing and exchanging good practices; - point out that education must devote more attention to Europe's cultural and linguistic heritage and to multimedia; - reiterate the principles of equality, accessibility and low cost with regard to certain basic services which must be respected in the provision of multimedia services; - devote particular attention, at the level of implementation of the programme, to the risks of abuse of multimedia content in such areas as racism, illegal pornography and other criminal activities. The amendments not incorporated into the amended proposal included those which aimed to: - ensure that the actions supported the development of applications serving the purposes of health, education, training and regional planning; - give special treatment to associations and NGOs; - lay down a principle of reciprocity in implementing the programme in cooperation with third countries or international organisations; - establish a new Action line 3 relating to the development of new software packages; - propose a new breakdown of the budget. In this respect, the Commission proposed the following breakdown: . Action line 1 (stimulating demand and raising awareness): 20-30%; . Action line 2 (making good use by the multimedia industry of information held by the public sector): 18-23%; . Action line 3 (triggering European multimedia potential): 43-55%; . Action line 4 (support actions): 7-12%. ?

Information society: European multimedia content industry, INFO 2000 multi-annual programme

OBJECTIVE: to adopt a multiannual Community programme with a view to: creating favourable conditions for the development of a European multimedia content industry; stimulating demand for, and use of, multimedia content; contributing to the professional, social and cultural development of citizens; and developing the exchange of know-how between users and suppliers. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 96/339/EC adopting a multiannual Community programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the new information society (INFO 2000). CONTENT: in order to attain the objectives of the INFO 2000 programme, the following actions shall be undertaken under the guidance of the Commission: - stimulating demand and raising awareness: creating new markets by raising the awareness of specific user groups at European level; developing pan-European user groups; - exploiting Europe's public sector information: developing policies to access and exploit public sector information; linking the directories of European public sector information; making use of content resources in the public sector; - triggering European multimedia potential: catalysing a new, high-quality European multimedia content; negotiating multimedia intellectual property rights; developing and exchanging best practices; - support actions: observing and analysing the market; promoting the use of standards; promoting skills at European level. The programme shall cover a period of four years (1 January 1996 to 31 December 1999), the financial reference amount for its implementation totalling ECU 65 million. In its implementation, the Commission shall be assisted by an advisory committee made up of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the Commission representative. The programme shall be executed through indirect action on a shared-cost basis (the Community's contribution should not exceed 50% of the cost of the project, with progressively lower contributions as the project nears the marketplace). The choice of projects will be based on the call for tender procedure published in the OJ. Participation in the programme may be opened, without financial support, to entities in third countries, where such participation contributes to the implementation of the programme, taking into account the principle of mutual benefit. After three years and at the end of the programme the Commission shall submit to the Council, the EP, the ESC and the Committee of the Regions an evaluation report drawn up by independent experts. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1 January 1996. ?

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The Council adopted the programme, following the preliminary agreement reached at its sitting of 27 November 1995 and the opinion given by Parliament on 28 March 1996.