


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">1997/2013(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Development and application of new information technologies in the next decade		
Subject 3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ENER</b> Research, Technological Development and Energy	ELDR <a href="#">PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL</a> <a href="#">Elly</a>	21/03/1996

Key events			
17/02/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/04/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
16/04/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0153/1997</a>	
11/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		
12/06/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0336/1997	Summary
12/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	<a href="#">1997/2013(INI)</a>
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/08569

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0153/1997</a>	16/04/1997	EP

		<a href="#">OJ C 182 16.06.1997, p. 0002</a>			
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0336/1997 <a href="#">OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0105-0196</a>	12/06/1997	EP	Summary

## Development and application of new information technologies in the next decade

---

The Committee draftsman, Elly PLOOY-VAN GORSEL (NL, ELDR), warned that the information technology (ICT) sector is developing faster in the US and in South-East Asia than in Europe. He also said that the lack of a uniform and homogenous internal European market threatens to put a break on the development of the European ICT industry. Mrs PLOOY saw her report concerning a better co-ordination of national ICT policies with a view to the establishment of a single European ICT Market. The Commission and the Member States should pursue a new policy geared not only to large firms, but also to SMEs. Europe's ICT position can be improved if European firms are, firstly, in a position to develop new ICT products, applications and services, and secondly, are in a position to market these products and services too. European ICT firms must make major marketing efforts in order to bring products on a not yet completed internal market. The European tax environment has an adverse impact on the introduction of ICT services and products. The draftsman expects that lower taxation will stimulate the take-up of ICT products. Finally, there is a number of homegrown reasons for the ICT ground lost by Europe to the US: the number of PCs per household in the EU, the uneven degree of cable penetration and high Telecom prices. In the EU, there are 2,53 Internet services per 1000 inhabitants, in the USA 12,42. ?

## Development and application of new information technologies in the next decade

---

Adopting the report by Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL (ELDR, NL) on the new information and communications technologies (ICT), the European Parliament called for improved harmonization of Member States' national policies in this area within the framework of the Community decision-making process. The European Parliament wished to see a real single ICT market, especially at regulatory level (standards, patents etc.), so that ICT products and services would be operationally compatible throughout the European Union. It recommended a series of measures to achieve this, including: - defining Community standards to protect coded data in financial transactions and private life; - studying the new potential for hacking as the result of the development of ICT; - developing a widely-accessible distribution infrastructure for ICT-linked applications and services; - taking account of the potential of various ICT segments (electronic sales, teaching, environment, health); - developing a policy which aims to stimulate the formation of networks; - developing projects which provide for ICT to be used in less-favoured regions via the Structural Funds; - implementing a Community ICT policy geared both to large enterprises and SMEs; - developing ICT applications and services which aim to promote the European cultural, artistic, historic and linguistic heritage. With regard to the European Commission's proposal to allocate 28% of the total financial framework for the fifth R&D framework programme to the information society, the European Parliament pointed out that it would comment on the merits of this proposal at a later date. Given the lack of any systematic link of cause and effect between research efforts and economic results, it also wished for Community R&D programmes to carry out a better cost-benefit study in order to achieve programmes with more practical potential. Europe should also pay greater attention to speech synthesis and language technologies in order to convert its multilingualism into a competitive advantage. More specifically, Parliament called for global consultation on the disruptions expected in the new millennium (computer recognition of dates in the year 2000) and for a solution to be found to this problem. Elsewhere, the European Parliament called on the public sectors in the Member States at local, regional, national and European level to make increased use of ICT, including in teaching and within the public administrations and their departments, in order to promote the use of these technologies. Finally, Parliament considered that ICT should be addressed first and foremost to citizens (including older people, for whom special efforts were needed) and called on the European Commission to intensify its efforts to ensure that citizens were sufficiently aware of the advantages of using ICT in their daily life.?