


Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	1997/0341(COD) Procedure completed
Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability	
Amended by 2001/0211(COD) Amended by 2003/0303(COD)	
Subject 2.80 Cooperation between administrations	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	PSE READ Imelda Mary	11/02/1998
	Former committee responsible		
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	Former committee for opinion		
BUDG Budgets	PPE KELLETT-BOWMAN Edward T.	03/02/1998	
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2193	21/06/1999
	Environment	2153	20/12/1998
	Telecommunications	2140	27/11/1998

Key events			
12/12/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0661	Summary
16/02/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
10/11/1998	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
10/11/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0416/1998	

18/11/1998	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0657/1998	Summary
15/12/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0785	Summary
21/12/1998	Council position published	13491/2/1998	Summary
14/01/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
18/03/1999	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
18/03/1999	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0130/1999	
12/04/1999	Debate in Parliament		
13/04/1999	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0241/1999	Summary
05/05/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
06/05/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0412/1999	Summary
21/06/1999	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
12/07/1999	Final act signed		
12/07/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/08/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0341(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amended by 2001/0211(COD) Amended by 2003/0303(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 156
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/10663

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0661	12/12/1997	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0628/1998 OJ C 214 10.07.1998, p. 0033	29/04/1998	ESC	
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0044/1998 OJ C 251 10.08.1998, p. 0001	13/05/1998	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0416/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0006	10/11/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0657/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0058-0076	18/11/1998	EP	Summary

Modified legislative proposal		COM(1998)0785 OJ C 010 14.01.1999, p. 0008	15/12/1998	EC	Summary
Council position		13491/2/1998 OJ C 055 25.02.1999, p. 0015	21/12/1998	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position		SEC(1998)2252	08/01/1999	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0130/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0009	18/03/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0241/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0022-0056	13/04/1999	EP	Summary
Reconsultation		SEC(1999)0581	28/04/1999	EC	
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		COM(1999)0215	29/04/1999	EC	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament confirming position adopted at 1st reading		T4-0412/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0252-0267	06/05/1999	EP	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2003)0100	07/03/2003	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2005)0493	14/10/2005	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Decision 1999/1720](#)

[OJ L 203 03.08.1999, p. 0009](#) Summary

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

OBJECTIVE: the proposal for a decision concerns the adoption of a series of actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations (IDA programme - second phase).

SUBSTANCE: in the proposed second phase of the IDA programme, the Community aims to: - attain a high level of interoperability, within and between the various administrative sectors and with the private sector, between the telematics networks in the Member States and between the Community and Member States, in order to attain economic and monetary union and enable Community policies to be implemented; - establish and operate these networks in such a way as to increase their viability, reactivity, flexibility and adaptability to technical progress and the development of the market; - enable enterprises and the citizens of the Union to benefit from these networks; - promote the dissemination of better practices and encourage the devising of original telematics solutions within administrations. In order to attain these objectives, the Community will carry out horizontal measures and projects, particularly including feasibility studies or demonstrations, the setting-up of working parties comprising experts from the Member States and the Community and, if appropriate, the acquisition of goods and services for the Community. ?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

The Committee adopted the report by Ms. Mel READ (PES, UK) approving the Commission Proposals setting up trans-European networks for electronic Interchange of Data between Administrations (IDA). The IDA programme was set up in 1995, but was later annulled by the ECJ as a result of legal action brought by the European Parliament. These two proposals thus seek to establish a new legal framework for the IDA programme. The proposal sets out a number of concrete actions and measures to be undertaken in order to ensure interoperability and access to IDA-TEN:s. This proposal was also approved by the Committee subject to several amendments which essentially mirror amendments to the first proposal. ?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II:

interoperability

Parliament adopted without debate the report by Mrs Imelda READ (PSE, UK) on adopting a series of actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic Interchange of Data between Administrations (IDA). In its amendments Parliament stressed that the programme should not seek solely to create networks between national administrations but also between them and the Community administration. It also stressed the need to maximise the use of standards, publicly available specifications and public domain applications to ensure seamless interoperability in order to achieve economies of scale and to increase the benefits of such networks. Parliament considered that any measures to ensure interoperability between and access to such networks must take into account the need to preserve cultural specificities. ?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

The amended proposal incorporates, in full or in substance, 6 of the 11 amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading. The amendments accepted by the Commission contribute to a clearer motivation of the decision, to enhancing the orientation of the IDA programme towards market-based solutions and to improving both its structural and technical coherence and to making it more transparent. It should be noted that the Commission did not incorporate amendments relating to the following: - taking cultural specificity into account with regard to network access; - the revision of the decision according to the codecision procedure; - committee procedures.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

The Council common position incorporates 2 amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading including, notably, the amendment which stresses the need to maximise the use of standards, publicly available specifications and public domain applications to ensure seamless interoperability in order to achieve economies of scale and to increase the benefits of such networks. The common position is in line with the objectives and the content of the Commission proposal but makes the following changes: - scope and objectives: the Council has inserted two new objectives: a) convergence of networks towards a common telematic interface, b) substantial benefits by streamlining operations, reducing maintenance etc. and achieving an overall secure and reliable interchange of data; - horizontal actions and measures: The Council considered that, for the efficient management of the programme, the IDA work programme should contain detailed information about intended actions, functionalities and implementation for each action or measure envisaged under the proposed decision; - generic services: several changes have been made with a view to ensuring a pro-competitive environment for generic services; - common tools and techniques: the scope of such tools has been clarified and changes have been made to ensure a more market-oriented approach; - information content interoperability: the common position mentions the linguistic diversity of the Community in this context and also with regard to the spread of best practices; - reference legal and security practices: it was noted that the requirements of this provision were without prejudice to the competence and specific obligations of the Member States; - financial framework: in order to ensure transparency, the Council has inserted a new article which gives the financial framework for (EUR 33.1 million) for 1998-2000.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

The Commission considers that the changes in this decision are in line with the objectives, content and spirit of its proposal. They enhance the mechanisms for coordination between the administrations concerned, strengthening both the service- and market-orientated approach of the IDA programme, and improving the overall transparency and accountability in its implementation. The Commission therefore accepts the common position.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

The Committee (rapporteur Imelda READ/PSE, UK) approved two common positions on TENs and the electronic transmission of data(COD97340) with minor amendments.

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

At second reading under cooperation procedure, the European Parliament approved the recommendation by Imelda Mary Read (PSE,UK), which amends as follows common position 9/1999/EC adopted by the Council with a view to the adopting a Council decision adopting a series of actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic Interchange of Data between Administrations (IDA): - requiring the Commission to forward its two-yearly evaluation of the implementation of the proposed decision to the European Parliament as well as to the Council.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

In view of the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, the Commission is able to accept the sole amendment proposed by the Parliament to the Common Position and re-examines its Proposal as a consequence.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 01/05/99, the European Parliament confirmed as its first reading under codecision procedure its vote of 18/11/98 on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a series of actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations and confirmed as its second reading, its vote of 13/04/99 on the Council's common position on that same proposal.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

PURPOSE : to adopt a series of actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations (IDA). **COMMUNITY MEASURE** : Decision 1720/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. **CONTENT** : in the framework of the second phase of the IDA programme, the Community action aims to : - achieve a maximum degree of interoperability between the various systems and their components, between the telematic networks established in the Member States and between the Community and the Member States, in order to achieve the European Economic and Monetary Union and to facilitate the implementation of Community policies; - seek the convergence of these networks towards a common telematic interface between the Community and the Member States; - achieve substantial benefits for Member States' administrations and the Community by streamlining operations, reducing maintenance, speeding up implementation of new networks and enhancements, achieving an overall secure and reliable interchange of data, as well as the achievement of greater cost-efficiency, responsiveness, flexibility and adaptability to technological change and market evolution in the establishment and cooperation of such networks; - extend the benefits of such networks to Community industry and citizens of the European Union; - promote the spread of the best practice and the encouragement of the development of innovative telematic solutions in administrations. In order to achieve these objectives, the Community shall undertake horizontal actions and measures in support of sectoral networks and in accordance with the IDA work programme. Implementation of the horizontal actions and measures shall include feasibility studies and demonstrations, the establishment of working groups of Member States and Community experts, and the procurement of goods and services for the Community, as appropriate. With a view to ensuring the administrative efficiency of the programme, it is foreseen that the IDA work programme will contain a complete description of the intended actions, a complete description of the functionalities and of the technical approach and a detailed plan for its implementation, specifying the individual tasks and their sequence. The financial framework for Community action under this Decision for the period 1998-2000 shall be EUR 33.1 million. **ENTRY INTO FORCE** : 03/08/99. The Decision shall apply until 31/12/2004.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

PURPOSE : to present the IDA II Mid-term evaluation. **CONTENT** : the Commission considers the mid-term evaluation results a useful assessment of the IDA II Programme as a whole and the projects and actions launched under it. These results are, to a large extent, based on the conclusions and recommendations of the final evaluation report produced by the external consultant and serve as a baseline for the coming evaluation, to be carried out in 2004. In parallel with the mid-term evaluation and immediately after, steps have already been taken: In the context of IDA quality assurance, activities have started to include criteria related to the definition of project milestones and measurable benefits in the template for the GIP. In parallel, a Dashboard has been set up to measure progress in relation to the HAM-activities. Furthermore, a detailed guide for advice to the sectors was drawn up during the second half of 2001, clearly stating every step needed in the application process for IDA funding, while in the field of the HAMs a catalogue of IDA common tools & techniques has been put together. In support of the e-Europe 2005 action plan and in line with the new IDA objective of identifying and deploying pan-European e-Government services to citizens and enterprises, several actions have been launched. In this context, one can refer in particular to the launch of the portal of the EU administration (public services.eu) at the IDA Conference. Regarding citizens and businesses, IDA II should continue to ensure and verify that citizens and enterprises benefit from IDA networks, as well as to encourage the introduction of citizens and enterprises as users wherever possible. In the context of the e-Europe 2005 action plan, and taking into account the subsidiarity principle, IDA should promote direct access to Government's information and contribute to a reduction of the administrative burden on citizens and enterprises, as well as to the provision of pan-European e-Government services. Further to the open discussion at the IDA Conference, consideration should be given to how IDA will maintain appropriate consultation links with different tiers of Government, enterprises and citizens. Specific actions identified in the IDA II mid-term evaluation process and to be carried out in the period until 2004 (also in the light of the new IDA Decisions) concern: - Further strengthening of the assistance from the IDA team to the different sectoral administrations participating in the programme; - A review of the monitoring/reporting mechanisms for both PCIs and HAMs; - Emphasis on cost-benefit analysis for both PCIs and HAMs; - Establishing a description of an infrastructure, which shall serve as a platform for the development of PCIs and Other Sectoral Networks (OSNs); - Continuing the organisation of tutorial sessions/information days in both the Member States and the Candidate Countries; - Keeping an open dialogue with all stakeholders concerned on pan-European e-Government services to citizens and enterprises. Based on the mid-term evaluation and the experience gathered during four years of the IDA II programme, as well as the context provided by the e-Europe 2005 action plan and the results of the online consultation process/outcome of the IDA Conference, this Report will serve as an input for the future Commission proposal for post-IDA II activities after 31 December 2004, the expire date of the IDA II Programme.?

Trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations IDA II: interoperability

This Communication is an end-term evaluation of the IDA II programme and has been prepared by the Commission in accordance with legal provisions governing the establishment of IDA II. The purpose of the document is to report on the findings of the end-term evaluation of the programme and to give an indication of how these findings have been taken on board to the successor of IDA, namely the IDABC.

IDA II entered into force in 1999 following the approval of two Council Decisions referred to as the Guidelines and Interoperability Decisions. One of the main aims of IDA II was to ensure interoperability and information exchange between public administrations and to ensure efficiency in the provision of on-line services by public administrations to citizens and enterprises at a pan-European level. As well as being project driven by horizontal measures, IDA II seeks to establish technical guidelines and recommendations to be used by public services when sharing information.

In terms of project implementation, between 1999 and 2004, IDA-financed activities included measures such as improving veterinary control and health through information systems in the wake of the BSE crisis as well as information on maritime protection in the wake of natural and man-made disasters. In total, IDA II financed projects of common interest in nineteen different policy areas. Among the more prominent information systems that received IDA II support are the job opportunity website EURES, the PLOTEUS portal on learning opportunities, the flood alert system LISFLOOD, the EUPHIN public health information network, the SOLVIT system for dispute resolution in the Internal Market, DSIS, a telematic application for the collection of statistics, SAFESEANET for maritime safety, and CARE, the road accident database. Although enlargement of the EU to embrace ten new Member States in 2004 did not lead to new information systems being established, a major effort was undertaken to extend existing projects to these countries.

Projects, which addressed the more technical requirements of data exchange, were given similar attention. Much of IDA II's effort went into creating the basic infrastructure for data exchange, with increasing emphasis being placed on the security of information. Central to this initiative has been the TESTA network for secure communications between European public administrations. At the end of the IDA II programme, all of the Member States had connected to TESTA and the network was close to receiving security accreditation. A second group of measures contained a number of applications addressing specific public sector requirements, including CIRCA, a groupware application especially suited to the multi-lingual operating of committees and expert groups required in the implementation of European policies. The 'Your Europe' portal, has established itself as a consolidated delivery platform for information on the mobility requirements of citizens and businesses.

The third group of actions included guidelines and recommendations to develop capabilities for interoperability, such as the European Interoperability Framework and the Architecture Guidelines, which developed recommendations for more efficient and effective communication between public administrations. As well as being project driven, IDA II has also been responsible for the coordination of Community and national stakeholders. The management committee and its technical working group, plus experts, played a central role in this. The Committee considered subjects as diverse as videoconferencing, data networks, interoperable IT networks and open source networks.

Over the duration of the programme a total of 107 projects received financing from IDA II. Of these, 62 were projects of common interest. Health and agriculture accounted for the largest number of projects of common interest (PCI), although the agriculture sector did not rank top in budgetary terms. The biggest recipients were the health and environment sector and projects initiated by the European Agencies. In a break down of budgetary commitments, the evaluation report notes that about 52% of funding went towards projects of common interest, while 48% went towards horizontal actions and measures.

The Commission Report also considers a number of key factors in its final assessment of the IDA II project, namely the relevance of the programme, its effectiveness, its efficiency, utility and lastly sustainability. Regarding the first question, the Commission notes that an EU data interchange could not be efficiently run by uncoordinated actions at a national level. The need for an EU based programme is therefore highly relevant. In terms of its efficiency and effectiveness the Report finds that although the IDA II programme consumed a small budget, it delivered many concrete results. The effectiveness of IDA II was harder to analyse against the open-ended nature of the programme's stated objectives. The evaluation process did, however, note that IDA II was warmly welcomed by the new Member States. The utility aspect of the programme's evaluation found that many public sectors have networks with data sharing capabilities – one of the desired objectives of the programme. In addition, IDA has initiated and facilitated the creation of an infrastructure providing a useful service to its target populations. As far as sustainability is concerned the Report notes that, initially, not much attention was given to this matter. However, in the last two years a significant effort has been made to secure the sustainability of projects in the IDA II programme.

To conclude, while pinpointing a number of weaknesses in the programme, the end-term evaluation has drawn largely positive conclusion regarding its over-all performance. The improvements suggested have been or are in the process of being implemented in the IDABC programme.