


# Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1998/2034(COS)	Procedure completed
Information Society: globalisation and strengthening of the international cooperation		
Subject 3.30.25 International information networks and society, internet 5.03 Global economy and globalisation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		09/03/1998
		UPE <a href="#">MALERBA Franco E.</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>RELA</b> External Economic Relations		04/06/1998
Council of the European Union		ELDR <a href="#">PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL Elly</a>	
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		15/04/1998
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">SIERRA GONZÁLEZ Angela del Carmen</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Telecommunications	<a href="#">2096</a>	19/05/1998
	<a href="#">Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)</a>	<a href="#">2079</a>	30/03/1998
	Telecommunications	<a href="#">2071</a>	26/02/1998

Key events			
04/02/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0050	Summary
26/02/1998	Debate in Council	<a href="#">2071</a>	
13/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/03/1998	Debate in Council	<a href="#">2079</a>	
19/05/1998	Debate in Council	<a href="#">2096</a>	
13/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
13/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0366/1998</a>	

13/01/1999	Debate in Parliament		
14/01/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0034/1999	Summary
14/01/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/04/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2034(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/09766

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1998)0050	04/02/1998	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(1998)0111	20/02/1998	EC	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		<a href="#">CES0962/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 284 14.09.1998, p. 0006</a>	01/07/1998	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0366/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 341 09.11.1998, p. 0003</a>	13/10/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0034/1999 <a href="#">OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0103-0128</a>	14/01/1999	EP	Summary

## Information Society: globalisation and strengthening of the international cooperation

**OBJECTIVE:** to examine how multilateral coordination could be developed to meet the new challenges of globalisation and the Information Society. **SUBSTANCE:** The European Union has made substantial progress in putting in place the necessary conditions for the development of the Information Society, with a view to unleashing its growth and employment potential bringing benefits to all. The dynamism of the Information Society is putting pressure on both public and private sectors to be more flexible and rapidly to take up new challenges. This Communication responds to the need for strengthened international coordination in order to create an enabling framework for the global electronic marketplace ('on-line' economy) which is a fundamental element of the Information Society. To this end the Communication sets out: - the need for an international enabling framework for the emerging global electronic marketplace; - a preliminary analysis of emerging obstacles to this framework covering technical, commercial and legal areas; - a proposal for immediate action to coordinate views on the key obstacles and the most effective means to remove them - building on stronger private sector (including consumer groups) involvement; - a proposal for an International Charter through which parties would agree on a method of coordination between all relevant parties. This Charter, which could be agreed by or in the course of 1999, would: . be legally non-binding; . recognise the work of existing international organisations; . promote the participation of private sector and relevant social groups; . contribute to more regulatory transparency. The next stages will depend on the responses received by the Commission to these proposals. ?

## Information Society: globalisation and strengthening of the international cooperation

The Committee expressed strong support for the Commission's efforts to create an international initiative for Internet and e-commerce. In adopting its report drafted by Mr Franco MALERBA (EPP, I) the Committee approved of the idea of establishing an "Internet Charter" - a legally non-binding document setting out internationally agreed objectives and principles in areas such as taxation, liability, jurisdiction and data-protection. From the European point of view, the Committee considers that the main purposes of this Charter should be to ensure that European companies and organisations can fully participate in the opportunities offered by Internet and electronic commerce, to avoid premature and conflicting regulation and to ensure that the interests of consumers are safeguarded. In drawing up this Charter, the Committee stressed that it is necessary to work closely with other countries - notably the USA - and with Industry. Finally, the Committee calls on the Commission to include Parliament in this process. ?

## Information Society: globalisation and strengthening of the international cooperation

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In adopting its Resolution on Globalisation and the information society drafted by Mr. Franco MALERBA (I, EPP), the European Parliament welcomed the Commission's proposal for an international initiative for the Internet and electronic commerce. It also underwrites the principles outlined in the Final Declaration of the Bonn Ministerial Conference as a guide for governments' action in this area. The following are the Parliament's recommendations to the Commission : - the initiative for the Internet could take the form of a non-binding 'Internet Charter', a document containing a set of internationally agreed, legally non-binding objectives and principles encouraging a simplified regulatory governance of Internet, consistent with inter alia security, safety and soundness, privacy, jurisdiction, liability, taxation, copyright and data protection considerations, pursuing maximum inter-operability across international borders; - the main purpose of the Internet initiative should be to help businesses and financial institutions make the most of opportunities offered by electronic commerce and banking in the world market, to ensure the interests of consumers, to prevent premature and conflicting regulation developing inside and outside the European internal market which would impede the development of electronic banking and commerce or imperil the security of electronic banking and commerce; - the Charter should not alter or bear prejudice to competition law; - a market-driven approach should be adopted in the Charter definition process so that industry can fully contribute to identifying and removing barriers to electronic commerce; - the Charter should hasten, but not replace, specific legislation in critical areas such as intellectual property rights, electronic signature, encryption, taxation, liability, fight against crime on the Internet and names management on the network; - the Commission should involve the Parliament in the activities of the Charter and keep it informed of the progress of the Global Business Dialogue.?