


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2037(INI)	Procedure completed
New frontiers in book production : electronic publishing and printing on demand		
Subject 4.45.08 Cultural and artistic activities, books and reading, arts		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		29/02/2000
		PSE O'TOOLE Barbara	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
14/04/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/01/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
09/01/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0005/2001	
01/02/2001	Debate in Parliament		
01/02/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0057/2001	Summary
01/02/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2037(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/12603

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0005/2001	09/01/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0057/2001 OJ C 267 21.09.2001, p. 0023-0083	01/02/2001	EP	Summary

New frontiers in book production : electronic publishing and printing on demand

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Barbara O'TOOLE (PES, UK) on electronic publishing and printing on demand. The committee took the view that cultural policies which had hitherto played an important role in maintaining Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity and in safeguarding universal access to the written word should take into account the specific nature of electronic publishing. It also stressed that small providers of electronic publishing services should be subsidised by the Commission in order to create a counterweight to media conglomerates. It was essential to uphold a number of principles, such as separation of the regulatory regime for providers and infrastructure from that for the content provided, as well as the principle of neutrality between different means of delivering the same content. The Commission was asked to propose a legislative framework for e-publishing and to support technological developments to improve authenticity protection and the rights of right holders. However, it was important to enable Member States to choose whether to adopt a national book price system in legislative or contractual form. Moreover, the Commission should be sufficiently flexible with regard to permitted methods of remunerating authors, and support should be given to emerging authors. On the issue of VAT rates, the committee felt that Member States should consider applying special VAT arrangements to publications downloaded from the internet. They should also ensure that VAT exemptions or reductions granted to educational and cultural institutions for the purchase of non-electronic publications were extended to include the purchase of electronic publications. In addition, the committee urged the Commission to take measures to foster creative European content in e-publishing in all languages and to enable workers in the publishing and book retailing industries as well as authors to benefit from EU training schemes to adapt their skills. Lastly, it called on the Commission to designate 2003 "European Year of Books and Literacy" in order to increase public awareness of the importance of books and electronic publishing in the knowledge-based economy. ?

New frontiers in book production : electronic publishing and printing on demand

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Barbara O'TOOLE (PES, UK). (Please refer to the previous text). In addition to what is outlined by the Committee responsible, the Commission is called upon to ensure that EU vocational training programmes and provisions for EU-supported training schemes address the need to offer opportunities to workers in publishing and book-retailing industries as well as to authors, to adapt their skills to new technologies, while ensuring that traditional publishing skills and occupations are not forgotten.?