

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2280(COS)	Procedure completed
Electronic communications: network and information security, role of the public sector		
Subject 1.20.09 Protection of privacy and data protection 3.30.05 Electronic and mobile communications, personal communications		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		10/10/2001
		PSE PACIOTTI Elena Ornella	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		22/11/2001
		PPE-DE VAN VELZEN W.G.	
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2485	18/02/2003
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2472	05/12/2002
	General Affairs	2406	28/01/2002
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2374	15/10/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Communications Networks, Content and Technology		

Key events			
06/06/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0298	Summary
15/10/2001	Debate in Council	2374	
13/12/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/01/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
12/09/2002	Vote in committee		Summary

12/09/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0311/2002	
22/10/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0490/2002	Summary
22/10/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/12/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
18/02/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
11/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2280(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	LIBE/5/15587

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0298	06/06/2001	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1474/2001 OJ C 048 21.02.2002, p. 0033	28/11/2001	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0311/2002	12/09/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0490/2002 OJ C 300 11.12.2003, p. 0024-0113 E	22/10/2002	EP	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2006)0656	31/05/2006	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2006)0251	31/05/2006	EC	Summary

Electronic communications: network and information security, role of the public sector

PURPOSE : to propose a European policy approach aimed at improving network and information security. **CONTENT** : the explosion in the use of communication networks such as the Internet has led to the recognition that greater measures are needed to protect network and information security. Network and information security is considered a priority mainly because of the need to offer adequate data protection, ensuring a functioning economy, national security and the wish to promote e-commerce in the European Union. The Stockholm European Council accordingly requested the European Commission to come up with plans to reinforce and strengthen information security. The Commission accordingly prepared this Communication in which it outlines plans for future EU activities in the field of network security. The Communication notes that security has become a key challenge for policy makers largely because networks are no longer controlled through state enterprises. Rather, networks are now in the hands of the private sector - on a European, indeed global level. Some measures already exist at the European level aimed at safeguarding networks from unwanted attacks including the telecommunications and data protection framework Directive. In view of changing technologies and increased use of networks the provision currently existing are clearly inadequate and in need of additional supporting measures. The Communication defines the ultimate objective of network security as "the ability of a network or an information system to resist, at a given level of confidence, accidental events or malicious actions". Attacks on a network are not necessarily always the result of malicious intruders such as "hackers" or viruses, but also the result of unforeseen and unintentional events such as natural disasters (including floods, storms, earthquakes) hardware or software failures or simply, even, human error. To strengthen network and information security the Commission Communication proposes the following measures: - An awareness raising campaign. As the report notes many users of networks are simply not aware of certain dangers to their security. Hence the need for a public information and education campaign. - A European warning and information system. Here the Commission urges Member States to strengthen their Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and improve co-ordination amongst themselves. - Technology support. The Commission urges greater funding under the 6th Framework Programme for research into security measures. - Support for market oriented standardisation and certification. The Commission hopes that standardisation organisations such as CENELEC will accelerate work into inter-operability. - Legal

framework. The Commission will propose legislation on cyber-crime. - Security in government use. The Commission calls on Member States to incorporate effective inter-operable security solutions in their e-government and e-procurement activities. - International co-operation. The Commission will reinforce dialogue with international organisations and partners on network and information security. The Commission proposes to launch a wide-ranging discussion with industry and users on the practical detail of implementing the actions proposed and calls on interested parties to submit comments by the end of August 2001.?

Electronic communications: network and information security, role of the public sector

The committee adopted the report by Ornella PACIOTTI (PES, I) on the Commission communication. It pointed out that the present level of computer network security was highly inadequate and noted that network attacks could be targeted at essential infrastructure such as transport, communications, energy and water supply networks and financial and banking services. Network vulnerability therefore carried with it serious risks for the smooth operation of the EU's economy and the daily lives of its citizens. Stressing that any response to those weaknesses based on exclusively voluntary action by those directly concerned would be inadequate, the committee agreed that there was a need for a European approach, which would help the internal communications market to benefit from common solutions and to operate effectively on the international stage. The committee also said that the Commission should provide information on problems encountered in implementing the existing directives on data protection and formulate a European strategy, including laying down standards, developing encryption and certification systems on a European scale, actions to prevent and combat crime, raising awareness among citizens, users and public and private operators by means of information campaigns for disseminating best practices and stepping up scientific research in the weakest areas. It therefore welcomed the Commission's plans to set up a network security task force and said that it should have clearly-formulated objectives and be supplied with sufficient human and financial resources. Lastly, the Commission and Council were urged to develop a uniform legal basis, within the framework of Eurojust, for the investigation and prosecution of computer criminals. ?

Electronic communications: network and information security, role of the public sector

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report drafted by Ornella PACIOTTI (PES, It) on network security. (Please refer to the document dated 12/09/02.) Parliament asked the Commission to ensure that the task force takes account of the statements already made in the Cybercrime Forum and involves the Forum in its future work. The Commission should give priority to examining the security needs of, and to carrying out infrastructure early warning research for networks used for providing: -critical infrastructure, essential public services and public health services, -early warning systems and their interoperability, -services to foster the development of e-government and e-business. The first legislative action should be based on the Community's competences in relation to the trans-European networks and the internal market. Finally, the Commission is asked to submit an assessment of the financial impact of Union action in this area, providing comparative data on similar initiatives taken by Member States or third countries such as the USA.?

Electronic communications: network and information security, role of the public sector

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The purpose of this Communication is to revitalise the European Commission strategy set out in 2001 in the Communication "Network and Information Security: proposal for a European Policy approach". It reviews the current state of threats to the security of the Information Society and determines what additional steps should be taken to improve network and information security (NIS).

Drawing on the experience acquired by Member States and at European Community level, the ambition is to further develop a dynamic, global strategy in Europe, based on a culture of security and founded on dialogue, partnership and empowerment. In tackling security challenges for the Information Society, the European Community has developed a three-pronged approach embracing: specific network and information security measures, the regulatory framework for electronic communications (which includes privacy and data protection issues), and the fight against cybercrime. Although these three aspects can, to a certain extent, be developed separately, the numerous interdependencies call for a coordinated strategy. This Communication sets out the strategy and provides the framework to carry forward and refine a coherent approach to NIS.

Identifying and meeting security challenges in relation to information systems and networks in the EU requires the full commitment of all stakeholders. The policy approach outlined in this Communication seeks to achieve this by reinforcing a multi-stakeholder approach. This would build on mutual interests, identify respective roles and develop a dynamic framework to promote effective public policy-making and private sector initiatives.

The Commission will report to Council and Parliament in the middle of 2007 on the activities launched, the initial findings and the state of play of individual initiatives, including those of ENISA and those taken at Member State level and in the private sector. If appropriate, the Commission will propose a Recommendation on network and information security (NIS).