


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2192(COS)	Procedure completed
Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States		
Subject 3.30 Information and communications in general 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		18/09/2001
		ELDR ANDREASEN Ole	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		01/10/2001
		PPE-DE FERBER Markus	
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		21/11/2001
		PSE CASHMAN Michael	
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2397	10/12/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Communication		

Key events			
29/06/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0354	Summary
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/12/2001	Debate in Council	2397	Summary
19/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
19/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0051/2002	
11/03/2002	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0109/2002	Summary

13/03/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/02/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2192(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	CULT/5/15251

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0354	29/06/2001	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1493/2001 OJ C 048 21.02.2002, p. 0109	29/11/2001	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0051/2002	19/02/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0109/2002 OJ C 047 27.02.2003, p. 0089-0400 E	13/03/2002	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2002)0350	02/07/2002	EC	Summary

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

PURPOSE : to proposes a new framework for co-operation on activities concerning the Information and Communication Policy of the European Union. CONTENT : this communication explains how inter- institutional co-operation, particularly between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council should take place; the framework is open for participation from the Council, the other institutions and the authorities of the Member States. New forms of co-operation will be established where relations with Member States, National Parliaments, Local Authorities and Civil Society are concerned. On several occasions the European Parliament has asked the Commission to establish a basis for co-operation in the field of information and communication. Likewise, the Helsinki European Council called on the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to pool their efforts to put out co-ordinated general information on the Union and to make best use of resources. The communication does not propose at this moment a strategy for information policy. It constitutes a first step in view to build a global and coherent strategy on information and communication. It intends to launch a debate that would be concentrated on content, thus fleshing out and adapting the framework and enabling the Institutions to reach out to the citizen. The proposed framework is simple, un-bureaucratic and genuinely decentralised and is intended to create a basis of mutual trust and confidence. It takes as its starting point the autonomy and integrity of the Institutions which remain accountable for their actions and fully responsible for their contacts with the press and media. The framework proposes co-operation at : - the political level in the form of the Inter-Institutional Group on Information - at present composed by members of the Commission and the European Parliament - which will define and oversee general guidelines and priorities; - the operational level, i.e. the services responsible for information activities and instruments of both Institutions and; - the decentralised level at which execution takes place in the Member states, i.e. Commission Representations and Parliament External Offices. Regular consultations, information exchanges and reporting will be used to assure that the parties are aware of planned activities at all times. A wide range of instruments, means and ways of information will be employed. The main vehicles of information are described in the annex to the communication. All above activities and instruments will be subject to permanent evaluation in order to increase the effectiveness of the work carried out. ?

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

The Council welcomes the Commission communication on a new framework for cooperation on activities concerning the Information and Communication Policy of the European Union. It agrees to participate at the appropriate level in this new framework for cooperation, which represents a further stage in the process of bringing the European Union closer to its citizens. The Council wishes to contribute in a pragmatic and flexible manner to the definition at political level of those strategies, with the recognition that it will be for each Member State to determine the extent of its involvement in the concrete implementation of the activities in question. The Council should be represented in the new

interinstitutional cooperation framework at political level by the Presidency-in-Office, accompanied by representatives of the Member State which will hold the following Presidency and assisted by the General Secretariat. It will be for the Working Party on Information, extended to include senior officials from national information departments or, where appropriate, in the presence of experts, to define the Council's positions in this area and to evaluate the results. The Council takes note of the Commission's intention to submit a new communication on the content of information and communication policy. The Council will decide on its priorities at the appropriate time, in the light of the powers conferred upon it by the Treaties. With respect to the organisation at operational level of cooperation between the Community institutions on information and communication, the Council favours the coordinated use of existing resources, with the emphasis on rationalisation of those resources and a desire to improve services. Audiovisual means and the Internet should receive priority consideration in view of their impact and potential. Other areas of activity such as publications, libraries, information visits, public events and media monitoring should also be the subject of synergies between the institutions. Each Community institution must have sufficient resources to enable it to inform the public of its own activities. In the case of information on the achievements of and challenges facing the European Union as a whole, the Council considers that the initiatives in question must be defined precisely, particularly from a budgetary standpoint, and must be implemented within the new framework for interinstitutional cooperation. The Council asks the Commission to submit proposals during the first half of 2002 with a view to continuing, in conjunction with interested Member States, to provide information in audiovisual format intended primarily for third countries. The Council points out that it is for the Member States to provide information on the European Union. These activities will be more effective if they are carried out in coordination with those of the Community institutions, which should produce comprehensive and objective basic information.?

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

The committee unanimously adopted the report by Ole ANDREASEN (ELDR, DK) on the Commission communication. It welcomed this policy paper as well as the structural changes which had taken place within the Commission itself and the new and fruitful cooperation between Commission and Parliament. MEPs voiced concern at the declining turnout at European elections and said that funding must be earmarked, starting in 2003, for a joint awareness-raising campaign involving Parliament, Commission and Member States in the run-up to the elections in June 2004. The committee added that information campaigns should focus on issues close to the everyday lives of citizens, such as food safety, the euro, employment, the environment and freedom of movement, while not underestimating the importance of major campaigns such as the future of Europe, enlargement and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. MEPs also called for greater decentralisation of all information campaigns and measures and in particular for greater support to be given to existing civic information networks in the Member States (European Union Houses, Info-Points, International Federation of Europe Houses, European Movement, etc). It was essential that information should be factual, readable, impartial and free of propaganda. Given that television was the general public's preferred medium for receiving information on the European Union, the EU institutions should make greater use of it. In particular they should strengthen cooperation with regional TV stations, especially in the candidate countries, and encourage broadcasters to use the facilities of Europe by Satellite. MEPs also wanted to see greater use made of the Internet. They were critical of the amount of budgetary resources used for paper publications and called for all publications in future to be available in electronic format. They also questioned, in the case of Parliament, whether the expenditure on visitors' groups was not disproportionate (accounting as it does for 43% of the general information budget) and called for an analysis of the impact and value of such visits. Other demands included a reorganisation of the various websites of the major EU institutions as well as a shared portal for Commission, Council, Parliament and the other institutions, since this was needed to provide a better overview of the Union's policies and laws. Access to Community databases such as CELEX should be free. The committee called for the setting up within Parliament of an education unit with sufficient resources to act as a centre for European-level exchanges on all matters relating to education for European citizenship. Lastly, it called for videoconferencing equipment to be installed in Parliament to enable MEPs to have easier access to their constituencies.?

Information, communication: framework for cooperation between institutions and with the Member States

The European Parliament adopted the report by Ole ANDREASEN (ELDR, Denmark) on a new framework for co-operation on information policy. (Please refer to document dated 19/02/02). Members also expressed concern at the planned decrease in the overall multiannual estimate of expenditure on information and communication in the Commission (the B-3 budget lines). Parliament stressed the general need to match the available information more closely with the main target groups such as women, young people between 16 and 20, the elderly, rural communities, children, teachers, SME's, professional decision-makers and opinion formers. The need to make information more easily available to journalists was also emphasised. European Institutions should develop specific training programmes related to European mechanisms and issues for future journalists. A "civic education" unit should be established within the Parliament with sufficient resources in order to act as a centre for all matters relating to education for European citizenship, as well as a centre for European level exchanges between different project operators and promoters in the EU and applicant countries.?