

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2002/2240(INI)	Procedure completed
Mobile communications system: full roll-out of third generation 3G		
Subject 3.30.05 Electronic and mobile communications, personal communications		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		09/07/2002
		V/ALE AUROI Danielle	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2438	17/06/2002
European Commission	Commission DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology	Commissioner	

Key events			
11/06/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0301	Summary
17/06/2002	Debate in Council	2438	
21/11/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/01/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
23/01/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0016/2003	
12/02/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0055/2003	Summary
12/02/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/02/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2240(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2002)0301	11/06/2002	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0016/2003	23/01/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0055/2003 OJ C 043 19.02.2004, p. 0072-0260 E	12/02/2003	EP	Summary

Mobile communications system: full roll-out of third generation 3G

PURPOSE : to present a Communication concerning the way towards the full roll-out third generation mobile communications. **CONTENT :** this communication takes stock of the situation in Europe at the moment when nearly all Member States have issued licences for third generation (3G) mobile services and networks, as the first 3G networks are starting to be rolled-out and when the first commercial applications are being announced. The communication identifies the major challenges ahead which all actors involved needs to tackle if 3G is to fulfil the great expectations and its significant potential in building the EU information society which the Commission addresses through its eEurope 2005 Action Plan. In addition, the take-up of 3G is a continuous process which requires continued attention by public authorities. There are no simple answers to the challenges ahead but 3G has developed sufficient momentum to overcome the present difficulties. The report state that the Commission remains confidence in this respect. The Commission believes that commercially-viable advanced wireless systems, including 3G, are indispensable for Europe to attain the goals set in Lisbon with respect to a competitive knowledge-based economy and the realisation of the Information Society. After a continuous effort to develop 3G and to prepare for the deployment of a new wireless service generation, the roll-out of networks is finally under way while growing evidence for a significant market potential is emerging, albeit uncertainty as to its detailed evolution persists. Besides a general economic recovery, to which the mobile sector including 3G could considerably contribute, the sector is best served by letting the market drive the process ahead, and by allowing healthy competition to generate new products which consumers will want to buy. Administrations, including the Commission, can however contribute to confidence in the sector by ensuring a predictable and stable regulatory environment conducive to a competitive market serving the consumers' interests. For the immediate future, administrations can act to help overcome the difficulties encountered in the physical deployment of networks by harmonising the conditions and speeding up the procedures applicable for the acquisition of base stations sites. In addition, they can foster efforts to improve public awareness on safe usage of mobile equipment. In the longer run, the lack of harmonisation in licensing conditions and assignment across the European Union for 3G may represent a hindrance to integration in the Internal Market for telecommunications and may cause market distortions and uncertainty in the sector. This must be avoided as much as possible in the future, especially taking into account that new countries will shortly join the EU. The Commission intends to use the new regulatory framework in electronic communications to work together with the national administrations to develop new harmonised approaches to licensing and attribution of rights to use radio spectrum for new 3G licences and for other wireless applications. Until the market reaches cruising speed, the take-up of 3G is a continuous process which requires and deserves continued attention by public authorities. There are no simple answers to the challenges ahead, but 3G has developed sufficient momentum to overcome the present difficulties. The Commission remains confident in this respect.?

Mobile communications system: full roll-out of third generation 3G

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Danielle AUROI (Greens/EFA, F) in response to the Commission's communication on the full roll-out of third generation (3G) mobile communications. Pointing out that telecommunications technologies were advancing rapidly and constantly evolving, and that 3G mobile communications offered great potential for the future development of the information society, the committee called for a clear direction to be set now with a view to their introduction into Europe. The Member States were urged to speed up the implementation of the new electronic communications directive and to enact new national legislation in this area in as harmonised a manner as possible. The report underlined the importance of ensuring free and fair competition, enabling companies to operate on the market on an equal footing, irrespective of their size. Private investment must be encouraged and must not be hindered by over-regulation. Noting that consumers were not yet convinced about the possibilities of 3G, MEPs stressed that transparency of information, freedom of choice and affordable prices were needed to encourage demand and create a climate of confidence. This could be achieved inter alia through measures to encourage the use of open platforms, so that consumers were not confined to the output of a single operator. The committee also endorsed the Commission's approach of encouraging network infrastructure sharing throughout the EU to facilitate a more rapid and harmonised roll-out of 3G networks and services. It pointed out, however, that such shared use must be governed by freely agreed conditions which are not detrimental to healthy competition. The report also drew attention to the need to protect children when they use the Internet and called for ways of achieving this to be examined by the Commission and by suppliers of services. Special attention should also be paid to the security of payments made by mobile telephony, which was crucial for boosting consumer confidence. Turning to the health issues raised by mobile communications, the committee pointed out that the EU Member States had followed the WHO recommendation regarding limits for exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF). It supported the independent scientific study programmes commissioned by the WHO into the possible effects of electromagnetic waves and called for an active contribution to the public debate on this issue by all involved. The Commission's plan to establish a European Information System on EMF involving all stakeholders was welcomed. Lastly, Member States were urged to ensure that the positioning of mobile telephony network equipment was planned "with the most scrupulous regard for health and the environment" and determined in accordance with transparent planning procedures. ?

Mobile communications system: full roll-out of third generation 3G

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Danielle AUROI (Greens/EFA, France) on third generation mobile communication. (Please refer to the document dated 23/01/02.) Parliament stressed that 3G must be rolled out fairly and in a non-discriminatory manner, and underlined the importance of compliance with competition rules, so that companies involved operate on the market on an equal footing, irrespective of their size. Only free competition will ensure affordable prices for consumers. Parliament called on the operators involved in the roll-out of 3G to commit themselves to a transparent policy of offering services so as to guarantee consumers the maximum amount of information, thereby creating a climate of confidence which can only encourage demand. Furthermore, Parliament stressed that any trading of spectrum must not be allowed to lead to distortion of competition in the European telecommunications market. It encouraged Member States to help support broadband initiatives by means of tax concessions and measures to stimulate demand for broadband applications such as e-health.?