


# Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) <a href="#">1997/2039(COS)</a>	Procedure completed
Satellite communications in the information society, EU action plan	
Subject 3.30.03.06 Communications by satellite	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		17/04/1997
		PPE <a href="#">HOPPENSTEDT Karsten Friedrich</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>ENER</b> Research, Technological Development and Energy		16/04/1997
		UPE <a href="#">MALERBA Franco E.</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Telecommunications	<a href="#">2021</a>	27/06/1997
	Telecommunications	<a href="#">1991</a>	06/03/1997

Key events			
05/03/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0091	Summary
06/03/1997	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1991</a>	
07/04/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/06/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
24/09/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
24/09/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0279/1997</a>	
20/10/1997	Debate in Parliament		
21/10/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0484/1997	Summary
21/10/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/11/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information
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Procedure reference	1997/2039(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/4/08701

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0091	05/03/1997	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A4-0279/1997</a> <a href="#">OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0005</a>	24/09/1997	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES0981/1997</a> <a href="#">OJ C 355 21.11.1997, p. 0008</a>	01/10/1997	ESC	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0484/1997 <a href="#">OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0020-0028</a>	21/10/1997	EP	Summary

## Satellite communications in the information society, EU action plan

**OBJECTIVE:** The action plan submitted by the Commission is aimed at defining, in close cooperation with all the actors concerned, a strategic approach in the field of satellite communications. **SUBSTANCE:** The EU risks being kept out of substantial areas of the emerging markets in world satellite communications systems, for a number of reasons bound up with, inter alia, the regulatory and financial environment, industrial structures and technological aspects. The Commission stresses the need to react, and proposes the definition of a strategic approach, in close cooperation with all the actors concerned, namely industry, the operators and the Member States. One of the main objectives of the action plan is to prepare such an approach, to create the basis of an EU-wide action concentrating on the following aspects: - completing the EU internal market and removing the remaining barriers to the creation of the home market for the Union's satellite communications manufacturing and service industry; - improving coordination between the actors in order to reinforce the EU's position in international forums and markets; - reinforcing the market orientation of EU research and development in the satellite communications sector. 1) With regard to completing the internal market, the Commission will: - step up efforts to achieve full implementation of all EU legislation relevant to satellite communications; - request industry to identify regulatory barriers, so as to allow it to formulate the measures needed; - request the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) to accelerate efforts in the harmonization of authorization conditions and in harmonized use of frequency bands, and to review its current structure and procedures concerning regulatory decision-making; - request ETSI to review its overall satellite communications work programme with the aim of ensuring standard development so as to develop a fully competitive market; - continue to review developments relating to the international satellite communications organizations; - endeavour, in cooperation with ETSI, CENELEC and industry, to address the urgent need for standardization of advanced broadband multimedia terminals for mass-market use. 2) With a view to reinforcing the EU's international position, the Commission will: - make proposals for the systematic removal of the remaining market access barriers; - review the economic and trade issues related to orbits and frequencies; - assess global market opportunities, intellectual property rights issues, and the role of potential EU-led initiatives; - evaluate the opportunities arising from increased political and industrial cooperation between the EU and third countries (e.g. the US, Russia, Canada, Japan and China); - take measures to promote effective cooperation at world level. 3) In the field of research and technological development (R & D), actions to be taken could include: - identification of possible complementary actions at the framework programme level with space agencies, industry and Member States, to ensure complementarity of work programmes; - R & D actions under the framework programme, with a view to the rapid implementation of the recommendations already made in the context of market requirements; development of generic technologies in common with other sectors; implementation of demonstration/pilot networks; specification of innovative systems supporting advanced services; improvement of manufacturing processes; - in the context of the preparation of the fifth framework programme, study of the need for pre-normative research in the field (development of a multi-mode terrestrial-satellite user terminal for satellite mobile communications applications). To facilitate the development of this long-term vision, the Commission will ensure an appropriate interface with industry, including representatives of relevant industrial sectors (network operators, service providers, equipment manufacturers, content providers, users and consumers), to support it in its implementation of the action plan. ?

## Satellite communications in the information society, EU action plan

The Committee adopted a report by Mr Karsten Friedrich HOPPENSTEDT (EPP, D) supporting the Commission action plan for satellite communications in the EU. Noting that EU satellite industry is risking falling behind its main competitors, the Committee called for urgent action to support the industry. In particular, the Committee urged the Commission to support satellite projects of common interest within the TENs, and for it to include multimedia satellite communications in the framework research programme. Any action must, however, only be taken after consultations with the member states and the industry actors and be based on a market-driven approach, the Committee stressed. Finally, the report calls on the EU to step up its efforts on the international level, both in terms of increased cooperation with other nations such as USA and Russia, and by adopting a common approach to international negotiations over the allocation of satellite frequencies and positions. ?

## Satellite communications in the information society, EU action plan

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The Committee considers that the Commission's prime objective should be to step up efforts to: - achieve full implementation of all existing EU legislation in areas covered by the Commission proposal, and review internal market access barriers; - ensure compliance with international trade treaties and regulations in respect of satellite communications and reinforce Europe's position at international fora; - improve and coordinate R&D and application developments in close consultation with the ESA Whilst the Committee is pleased to note the revenues expected over the next ten years, it is regretted that the Commission is unable to give any indication as to the effect this will have on the market, industry and jobs. Since all forms of telecommunications are part of an expanding market, the Committee considers that the Commission should examine and advise on how and to what extent this may offset the effects on other declining markets and industries. The Committee endorses the Commission's desire and proposed actions to reinforce Europe's position at international level within the competence of the common commercial policy and in particular in the WTO context. The Committee recognizes the Commission's concern that action should be taken to support the position of European industry. Cooperation between CEPT and the Commission is in the best interests of industry. The Commission Action Plan has failed to identify one practical issue facing the satellite industry in Europe: the availability of risk capital. The Committee considers that the Commission should consider and propose a strategy for facilitating the introduction of innovation in the financing of long-term leases of satellite transponder capacity with a view to increasing European satellite capacity. ?

## Satellite communications in the information society, EU action plan

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In adopting the report by Mr Karsten Friedrich HOPPENSTEDT (PPE, D), the European Parliament approved the Commission's action plan for satellite communications. Taking the view that the European Union was in danger of being left behind its chief competitors in this area, Parliament called for urgent measures to be taken to assist the industries concerned. It called on the Commission to give priority to this matter, support joint projects in the field of trans-European networks, take measures to promote the development of a commercially viable European global positioning system (GPS). In addition, Parliament stressed: - the strengthening of Europe's position at international level, particularly within the context of the WTO; - the development of cooperation between the Union and its competitors in particular the United States, Russia, Japan and China; - increase in support for research and development and cooperation in this area; - rapid harmonization of the technical standardization of terminals and receivers for advanced broadband multimedia telecommunications satellites; - the development of an approach based on market requirements; ?