



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10085/92 (Presse 213)

1620th Council meeting

- Telecommunications -

Brussels, 19 November 1992

President: Mr Edward LEIGH

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and
Industry (Technology), of the
United Kingdom

19.XI.92

ngs/JM/bzb

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Guy COEME

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Transport, Public Undertakings and Public Building

Denmark

Mr Torben RECHENDORFF

Minister for Communications

Mr Helge ISRAELSEN

State Secretary for Ecclesiastical Affairs and Communications

Germany

Mr Frerich GÖRTS

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

Greece

Mr Dimitri STAMATOPOULOS

Secretary-General, Ministry of Telecommunications

Spain

Mrs Helena SALGADO

Secretary-General for Communications

France

Mr Emile ZUCCARELLI

Minister for Posts and Telecommunications

Ireland

Mr Bernard McDONAGH

Secretary-General, Department of Tourism, Transport and Communications

Italy

Mr Publio FIORI

State Secretary for Posts and Telecommunications

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts and Telecommunications

Netherlands

Mrs J.R.H. MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal

Mr Carlos Silva COSTA

State Secretary for Transport and Telecommunications

United Kingdom

Mr Edward LEIGH

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry (Technology)

Mr Neil HAMILTON

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry

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Commission

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Member

ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES SECTOR

The Council agreed in principle on the following Resolution on the assessment of the situation in the telecommunications services sector:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

- Whereas Council Directive 90/387/EEC of 28 June 1990 on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of Open Network Provision sets out a framework for the harmonized provision of services within the Community;
- Whereas a number of specific measures implementing Open Network Provision have been adopted by the Council;
- Whereas Commission directive 90/388/EEC of 28 June 1990 on competition in the markets for telecommunications services requires Member States to remove special or exclusive rights for the supply of telecommunications services other than voice telephony, telex, mobile radiotelephony, paging and satellite services;
- Whereas the Commission has submitted to the Council a communication assessing the situation in the telecommunications sector in relation to the aims of Directive 90/388/EEC; whereas that communication also assesses progress on harmonization and any restrictions on access to telecommunications network still remaining, the effects of those restrictions on the operation of the internal telecommunications market, and the measures that could be taken to remove those restrictions; whereas the Commission has asked Member States to give their opinions concerning the communication and the proposals contained in it before 31 January 1993;
- Whereas the Commission has submitted to the Council a communication assessing progress towards cost orientation and adjustment of pricing structures for telecommunications within the Community,

THE COUNCIL

Recognizes:

- that substantial progress has been made towards the creation of a Community-wide market for telecommunications services, in particular through the implementation of Open Network Provision;
- that the withdrawal of special or exclusive rights for the supply of telecommunications services other than voice telephony, telex, mobile radiotelephony, paging and satellite services, has led to substantial growth in the Community market for such services;
- that there is significant user demand for additional pan-European telecommunications services;
- that priority should be attached to creating the conditions which would permit this demand to be met;
- that additional pan-European services will create significant user demand for extra equipment and software;
- that the implementation of Open Network Provision will lead to a better cost orientation of tariff principles within the Community;
- that there is a need in particular to promote better cost orientation for telecommunications services provided across intra-Community borders;
- that the application of the principle of cost orientation needs to take account of the provision of service to all at an affordable price and in a reasonable timescale;
- that telecommunications policy must be developed with regard to the principle of social and economic cohesion;
- that a further analysis is needed of the specific requirements for development

of telecommunications in peripheral regions.

Reaffirms

- that a political agreement, fully involving the Council and the European Parliament, will best foster implementation of the Community's future telecommunications policy.

Calls upon the telecommunications organizations

- to introduce further cost orientation into tariffs, in particular for intra-Community telecommunications services, and leased lines;
- to work to secure a general lowering of accounting rates for intra-Community telecommunications traffic.

Urges the Member States

- to encourage such a movement towards cost-orientation and general lowering of accounting rates.

Calls upon the Commission

- to consider, in consultation with interested parties, the political, economic, commercial and social implications of the options set out in the Commission communication for the future of the Community telecommunications services market. These consultations and studies should examine in particular measures necessary to ensure service for all throughout the Community, including the interests of the peripheral regions in this respect, and taking account of the level of network development and the specific needs of small networks;
- to set out, following these consultations, a transparent approach and timetable for a future regulatory framework for the Community telecommunications market, so as to allow regulators and operators to plan the necessary adjustments at national level;

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- to work in close association with Member States in that respect, in particular with national regulatory officials through the establishment of a high level ad hoc committee.

Welcomes

- the Commission's intention to report before the next meeting of the Council of Telecommunications Ministers, and notes that the Council will then determine how to take work forward.

ACTION PLAN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED TELEVISION SERVICES IN EUROPE

The Council held a very detailed exchange of views on all matters raised by the proposal for a Decision. Substantial progress was made regarding the content of the action plan. However, considerable difficulties remain, particularly as regards the amount to be earmarked for the action plan.

The Commission, supported by a very large majority of delegations, therefore submitted a formal request that an additional meeting of the Telecommunications Council should be held, after the European Council in Edinburgh and before 31 December 1992. The Presidency took note of this request.

APPLICATION OF OPEN NETWORK PROVISION (ONP) TO VOICE TELEPHONY

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Directive on the application of open network provision to voice telephony. This proposal arises out of Directive 90/387/EEC on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of open network provision (ONP), and its main aims are to:

- establish the rights of users of voice telephony services vis-à-vis telecommunications organizations;

- harmonize user access to the public telephone network infrastructure;
- determine the minimum facilities to be made available to users;
- establish conciliation procedures in the event of disputes.

The harmonization envisaged by the proposal also extends to the principles of tariffs and accounting and to conditions of use.

The Council considered more particularly the following aspects:

- applicability of the provisions concerning special network access (Article 9) and interconnection (Article 10) within the same Member State;
- scope of the procedure provided for to assess progress in the Member States towards convergence of targets and implementation of common services in the Community (Article 23);
- the committee procedure to be applied for adopting the modifications necessary to adapt the technical provisions of the Directive to new technological developments or to changes in market demand.

At the end of the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this subject with the aim of reaching an agreement under the Danish Presidency.

TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

The Council heard a statement by the Commission on the progress that had been made regarding Trans-European networks, and noted that the Commission intended to continue its work on preparing the masterplans on telecommunications networks between administrations (CADDIA and INSIS programmes) and on ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network).

The Council requested the Commission to keep it informed on developments in its work.

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GREEN PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SINGLE MARKET FOR POSTAL SERVICES

The Council heard a statement by the Commission on the Green Paper on the development of the single market for postal services, and then held an exchange of views at the end of which it welcomed the Commission's intention, before the meeting of the Telecommunications Council scheduled for May 1993, to:

- report back to the Council on the outcome of the consultations that had been initiated;
- submit to the Council the conclusions that it decided to draw from those consultations;
- draw up a precise timetable for future work.

The Council also noted that there was a general consensus on the need to examine the question of "terminal dues" as a matter of priority, and asked the Commission to take account of this in formulating future proposals.

EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY

The Council welcomed the Commission's submission of its communication on the European telecommunications equipment industry: "state of play, issues at stake, proposals for action".

The Council agreed that work on this dossier would be resumed under the Danish Presidency.

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OTHER DECISIONS IN THE AREA OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Europe-wide co-operation on numbering of telecommunications services

The Council adopted the following Resolution on the promotion of Europe-wide co-operation on numbering of telecommunications services including the introduction of a European area code for telephony services with Europe-wide applications.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION
on the promotion of Europe-wide co-operation on
numbering of telecommunications services

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

- (1) Whereas the Council Resolution of 30 June 1988 on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment up to 1992 ⁽¹⁾ calls for promotion of the creation of Europe-wide services according to market requirements and appropriate social needs;
- (2) Whereas Commission Directive 90/388/EEC of 28 June 1990 on competition in the markets for telecommunications services ⁽²⁾ provides for competitive provision of telecommunications services and services based on public telecommunications networks and/or services;
- (3) Whereas Council Directive 90/387/EEC of 28 June 1990 on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of open network provision ⁽³⁾ emphasizes the need for open and efficient access to and use of public telecommunications services;

(1) OJ No C 257, 30.11.1988, p. 1.

(2) OJ No L 192, 24. 7.1990, p. 10.

(3) OJ No L 192, 24. 7.1990, p. 1.

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- (4) Whereas numbers are the key for access to, and use of, telecommunications services and, as such, are essential for the provision of telecommunications services and services based thereon, particularly as regards the introduction of new and competitively-provided services; whereas, in addition, the ease of use of telephony-based services is largely dictated by how familiar and easily understood numbering and dialling arrangements are;
- (5) Whereas numbering changes can cause high levels of cost and disruption to service providers and users, particularly where they are required to change their existing numbers;
- (6) Whereas competition and innovation in telecommunications service provision will serve further to intensify demands on the supply of numbers;
- (7) Whereas the design of numbering schemes from which numbers are allocated is an important factor in the design of networks and equipment which support pan-European services serving areas employing different numbering schemes, since numbering information is used to perform essential functions such as route selection and charging;
- (8) Whereas management of numbering schemes in Europe is undertaken by individual Member States;
- (9) Whereas there is a requirement for increased co-ordination in the management of numbering schemes at the European level in order best to support the development of, and growth in, services with Europe-wide applications;
- (10) Whereas management of numbering schemes for pan-European services must be carried out within a framework of Europe-wide co-operation allowing account to be taken, in a timely manner, of the opinions of representatives of national authorities concerned with numbering schemes, network operators including an appropriate involvement of the Association of European Telecommunications Network Operators (ETNO), service providers, industry and users;
- (11) Whereas such a framework of co-operation must respect the principle of separation of regulatory and operational functions required according to Directive 90/388/EEC; whereas, therefore, decisions on the development of numbering schemes and procedures for the allocation of numbers must rest with national regulatory authorities, according to this principle;

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- (12) Whereas management of numbering schemes must be carried out in an objective, transparent and non-discriminatory manner in order to ensure equality of treatment of the requirements for numbers of different categories of service providers and users;
- (13) Whereas such a framework should draw on the organizational experience of existing co-operation mechanisms involving the Conférence Européenne des Postes et Télécommunications (CEPT); whereas, in this respect, such a framework might be brought about through the creation of a European Numbering Office (ENO) and draw on established mechanisms of regulatory co-ordination, in particular the European Committee of Telecommunications Regulatory Authorities (ECTRA);
- (14) Whereas the Commission should be involved as appropriate in such a framework;
- (15) Whereas such a framework should facilitate long-term number supply planning at European level; whereas this should have regard to the most efficient use of numbering space and the significant timescales needed to phase out or relocate existing uses and the substantial investments which may accompany such numbering changes;
- (16) Whereas such a framework may also facilitate the working out of common European positions concerning numbering at the global level, in particular with regard to the work of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in this area; whereas the Council Resolution of 30 June 1988 recognizes the desirability of Community co-ordination in relation to international telecommunications matters, which include the field of numbering;
- (17) Whereas the opening of a European numbering space as a means of establishing common telephony numbering and dialling arrangements could promote the functioning of the single market through facilitating provision of Europe-wide services;
- (18) Whereas such a European telephony numbering space could be created through a number of different options;
- (19) Whereas there is a need to study further the possible implementation of each option for the creation of a European telephony numbering space, including routing, tariffing and general policy issues, as well as practical questions, related to numbering management, flexibility and efficiency; whereas appropriate consultation with network operators, service providers and users is still required;

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- (20) Whereas the creation of a European telephony numbering space should be a first priority for a framework of co-operation;
- (21) Whereas this Resolution proposes that detailed work on numbering could be carried out by the Member States in the framework of the ENO that could be created, and to the extent that the objectives of the proposed actions cannot be sufficiently achieved on an individual basis by the Member States for reasons of effectiveness of this work, appropriate Community action may be required,

CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS MAJOR POLICY GOALS IN THIS AREA:

- 1) strengthening co-operation at European level on the numbering arrangements for services with pan-European applications, with the objectives of:
 - ensuring that long-term demand for numbers for such services can be met according to the needs of the European market and different categories of use,
 - working towards the fair equitable and timely allocation of numbers for provision and use of such services,
 - promoting the most efficient use of numbering space by taking timely account of service and user requirements against the background of industrial development and global changes in numbering.
- 2) facilitating the development of common European positions in relation to global numbering developments, in particular with regard to the work of the ITU in this area.
- 3) the creation of a European telephony numbering space to support the achievement of European telecommunications policy goals, in particular:
 - promotion of the development of Europe-wide applications according to market requirements and appropriate social needs,
 - open and efficient access to, and use of, public telecommunications networks and services.

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4) in order to facilitate the achievement of these goals, encouraging development of a Europe-wide framework of co-operation on numbering between representatives of national authorities concerned with numbering schemes, network operators, service providers, industry and users, drawing on the organizational experience of existing co-ordination mechanisms set up by the CEPT, in particular as regards the arrangements relating to radio frequencies which may provide, where appropriate, a suitable model on which to base the arrangements for numbering and which could, in this respect, include the setting up of the ENO. Such a framework should:

- be open to the opinions of any member of the categories mentioned above,
- provide a forum for common studies towards development of European numbering schemes in a manner most suited for existing and future services, taking due account of the diversity of market and technological factors influencing service and product development,
- have available the resources to carry out analyses of long-term market and technology implications of numbering recommendations at European level;

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES:

5) to co-ordinate their actions within CEPT to promote the development and implementation, in conformity with Community law and in particular the competition rules of the Treaty, of a framework of Europe-wide co-operation on numbering allowing the opinions of all interested parties to be taken into account and involving the Commission as appropriate. This framework, which could in this respect include the setting up of the ENO on the basis of an appropriate statute, for which the resources necessary to ensure efficiency and the ability to respond rapidly to changes in the demand for, and use of, numbers should be made available. The tasks carried out within this framework should include:

- undertaking studies to support the long-term development of European numbering schemes and capabilities such as number portability, taking into account market needs, the needs of different categories of user and global considerations, and forwarding recommendations to regulatory authorities and the Community as appropriate;
- carrying out investigations to support developments in practices of management and allocation of numbers and forwarding recommendations to regulatory authorities and the Community;

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- undertaking studies in preparation of common positions at ITU numbering fora as required to facilitate the attainment of common global positions;
- liaison with bodies responsible for numbering scheme management, particularly at national level, and with authorities charged with the registration of names, numbers and addresses, particularly as regards the ongoing development of European directory services;
- co-operation and interaction with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and other standardization bodies in order to take full account of the link between standards development and numbering resource management;

and, as a high priority,

- investigation of the case for the introduction of a European area code for use in parallel with Member States' existing country codes, as a mechanism by which the creation of a European telephony numbering space may be achieved and, should this case be established, subsequent investigation of the choice of such a code, including the preparation of a co-ordinated proposal to the ITU for the issuing of such a code;
- completing, not later than 1 October 1993, studies for the creation of the European telephony numbering space and proposing, during 1994, any feasible solutions arising from these studies;
- development of co-ordinated procedures for the management and allocation of telephony numbers from the European numbering space, in particular with regard to the provision of the pan-European services listed in the Annex;

INVITES THE COMMISSION:

- 6) should investigations within the framework of European co-operation demonstrate that the introduction of a European area code is feasible and justified, to facilitate, where necessary, its co-ordinated introduction in the Community;
- 7) subject to the outcome of these investigations, to facilitate the rapid introduction of pan-European services numbered from the European telephony numbering space.

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ANNEX

Pan-European services which may be introduced under
the final indent of Point 5

- Europe-wide subscriber telephony numbers
- Flexible routing service
 - . providing the ability flexibly to route calls to different answering points e.g. according to country of call origination, time of day, etc.
- Europe-wide green/freephone call service
 - . particularly making use of flexible routing
- Europe-wide kiosk billing service
 - . including flexibility for private service operators to choose the charge for a call, up to a maximum set by the national regulatory authority
- Europe-wide shared cost call service
- Europe-wide mobile services

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Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications system (TFTS) and Road Transport Telematic Systems (RTT)

The Council adopted the following Resolution on the application of the decisions of the European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) concerning the Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications System (TFTS) and the Road Transport Telematic Systems (RTT).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

on the implementation of the Community
of the European Radiocommunications Committee Decisions

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas Council Resolution of 28 June 1990 ⁽³⁾ calls for the strengthening of European co-operation in the field of radio frequency co-ordination with the objective of providing sufficient frequency spectrum for new services, according to market demand and taking account of the requirements of existing services and of different categories of users; whereas that Resolution saw the development of the existing Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) co-ordination mechanisms as a major policy goal, and noted with satisfaction in that context the creation of the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO);

Whereas the CEPT European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) consists of representatives of the radio regulatory authorities in all CEPT Member countries, responsible for the allocation and assignment of radio frequencies within their respective countries;

Whereas the ERC is developing working methods to allow wide consultation with telecommunication organizations and other service providers, industry and users, and co-operation and interaction with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the Commission of the European Communities;

Whereas the Commission participates in the work of the ERC with the special status of Counsellor;

Whereas the ERC is establishing the ERO as a centre for expertise to develop

(3) Council resolution of 28 June 1990 on the strengthening of the European-wide co-operation on radio frequencies, in particular with regard to services with a pan-European dimension (OJ No C 166, 7.7.1990, p. 4).

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proposals especially for long-term plans for the use of the radio frequency spectrum in Europe;

Whereas the ERC has introduced a mechanism for the adoption of ERC Decisions on significant harmonization measures in the field of radiocommunications;

Whereas the Commission has submitted to the Council proposals for directives on common frequency bands to be designated for the co-ordinated introduction of the Terrestrial Flight Telecommunications System (TFTS) and Road Transport Telematics (RTT) systems, in the Community;

Whereas the ERC has adopted Decisions on the provision of suitable frequency bands for the introduction in Europe of TFTS and RTT systems;

Whereas these systems are important trans-European telecommunications developments;

Whereas the commitment of all Member States to the implementation of the ERC Decisions on TFTS and RTT systems will ensure the provision of the necessary frequencies for these systems,

RESOLVES:

- 1) that in future, Member States should actively participate in the development of ERC Decisions aimed at supporting the provision of significant Europe-wide radio services, taking account of the obligations of Member States under Community law, in particular the competition rules, and the general policy goals defined in the Council Resolution of 28 June 1990;
- 2) that Member States should commit themselves to implementing the ERC Decisions on frequency bands to be designated for the co-ordinated introduction of TFTS and RTT systems, according to the procedure adopted by the ERC;

INVITES THE COMMISSION:

to give full consideration in future to the mechanism of ERC Decisions as the primary method of ensuring the provision of the necessary frequencies for new Europe-wide radio services.

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Intellectual property rights and European Telecommunications Standards Institute

The Council adopted the following conclusions regarding policy on intellectual property and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

"The Council and the Commission consider that the European telecommunications standards used in legally-binding Community instruments must be accessible on an equitable basis throughout the Community.

The Council therefore urges the Commission to continue to co-operate with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and without delay to conclude with the Institute an agreement which meets this requirement on a transitional basis and which is in accordance with Community law.

The Council also requests the Commission, within the broader framework of the Community's international obligations, to find as quickly as possible a solution to these questions which may serve as a model for the future agreements with ETSI."

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Copyright and related rights

The Council definitively adopted the Directive on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property. The Council had adopted its common position on the Directive on 18 June 1992 and the European Parliament had given its Opinion on second reading on 28 October 1992.

The Directive provides for an exclusive right enabling authors, performing artists, phonogram producers and film producers respectively to authorize or prohibit rental and lending of their works, performances, phonograms and films; Member States will be able to derogate from the exclusive lending right in certain circumstances defined by the Directive.

The Directive also approximates Member States' laws on certain rights related to copyright by providing for rights of fixation, reproduction, distribution, broadcasting and communication to the public for groups of holders of related rights already cited and for broadcasting organizations.

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Bruxelles, le 18 novembre 1992.

NOTE BIO(92) 286 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX

CC. : aux membres du service du Porte-Parole

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Preparation du Conseil Telecommunications du jeudi 19 novembre 1992
(V. d'Udekem d'Acoz)

Le Conseil se réunira jeudi 19 novembre à Bruxelles à partir de 10 h sous la Présidence de M. Edward LEIGH, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat pour la Technologie. La Commission sera représentée par le Vice-Président Filippo Maria PANDOLFI.

- Point de substance à l'ordre du jour de ce Conseil : le Plan d'Action pour l'introduction de services de télévision avancés en Europe (P(92) 21).

Sur ce point, le Vice-Président PANDOLFI sera rejoint par le Commissaire Jean DONDELINGER, responsable de la Politique audiovisuelle.

Proposé par la Commission le 14 avril dernier en réponse aux souhaits et demandes exprimés tant par le Parlement européen que par le Conseil, ce Plan d'Action vise à stimuler le lancement rapide d'un nombre significatif de services de télévision avancée par satellite et par câble en Europe.

Pour atteindre cet objectif, la Commission estime qu'à côté des efforts qui seront fournis par les différents acteurs du marché, et notamment pour pallier aux surcoûts occasionnés par le lancement de tels services, un soutien financier communautaire d'un montant de 850 Mécus sur cinq années, soit jusqu'au 31 décembre 1996, est nécessaire.

Le Plan d'Action est un des trois piliers de la stratégie suivie par la Commission, et partagée à l'unanimité par les autres institutions, pour assurer le succès de l'introduction dans la Communauté d'une Télévision à Haute Définition (TVHD) européenne.

Les deux autres piliers sont constitués, d'une part, par la directive sur les normes de transmission de télévision par satellites qui a été adoptée par le Conseil le 11 mai dernier, et d'autre part, par le Mémorandum of Understanding (MOU) par lequel les opérateurs économiques intéressés (radiodiffuseurs, opérateurs de câble et de satellite et fabricants d'équipements) ont pris, le 15 juin dernier, des engagements pour développer et promouvoir sur le marché des services et équipements aux nouvelles normes.

Le 5 juin dernier, le Conseil "Télécommunication" a procédé à une première lecture de la proposition de Plan d'Action de la Commission. A la demande de plusieurs délégations, la Commission a depuis lors transmis au Conseil un "Business case" pour expliquer, en termes de marché, la nécessité d'une action communautaire et son impact, aussi bien sur les ventes de récepteurs 16/9 que sur les industries de programmes.

Ce mercredi 18 novembre, le Parlement européen a adopté un avis sur la proposition de la Commission. Y apportant un large soutien, il insiste plus particulièrement sur son intégration dans le cadre général de la politique audiovisuelle et souligne notamment la priorité à accorder au volet "programmes" ainsi que l'urgence à apporter à sa mise en oeuvre.

Peu de points de discussion subsistent sur le dispositif même du Plan d'Action. La question de son financement reste ouverte.

- Deux points devraient être adoptés comme points A par le Conseil. Il s'agit plus précisément de deux résolutions :

* l'une concernant la promotion d'une coopération paneuropéenne en matière de numérotation des services de télécommunications, en vue notamment d'introduire, en parallèle avec les codes nationaux existants pour les Etats membres, un indicatif régional européen pour des services téléphoniques susceptibles d'applications paneuropéennes;

* l'autre relative à la désignation de bandes de fréquences communes pour l'introduction coordonnée dans la Communauté, d'une part, d'un service de téléphone public dans les avions (TFTS) et, d'autre part, de systèmes télématiques destinés aux transports routiers (IP(92) 631). La résolution invite les Etats membres à s'engager à introduire les fréquences désignées récemment par le Comité Européen des Radiocommunications de la CEPT (Conférence Européenne des Postes et des Télécommunications) à cet égard.

En fonction des résultats auxquels aboutira le COREPER lors de sa réunion d'aujourd'hui, il est possible que le Conseil adopte également en point A des conclusions sur la politique en matière de droits de propriété intellectuelle et l'Institut Européen de Normalisation en Télécommunications (ETSI).

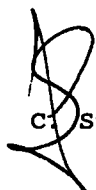
- Les Douze auront un débat initial non conclusif sur le Livre Vert relatif au développement du marché unique des services postaux (IP(92) 381) en vue notamment d'établir un calendrier des étapes à suivre. Adopté le 13 mai dernier par la Commission, ce Livre Vert a lancé une vaste consultation sur l'avenir du secteur postal en Europe. La consultation est actuellement en cours.

Le Vice-Président PANDOLFI présentera aux Douze la communication adoptée le 15 juillet dernier par la Commission et relative, à l'industrie européenne des équipements de télécommunications (IP(92) 585), et informera le Conseil sur l'état des travaux de la Commission en ce qui concerne l'établissement des réseaux transeuropéens dans le domaine des télécommunications.

Les Douze auront également pour la première fois, sur leur table la proposition de directive du Conseil relative à l'application à la téléphonie vocale des principes de la fourniture d'un réseau ouvert (ONP), adoptée elle aussi le 15 juillet dernier par la Commission. Soumise à la procédure de coopération, cette proposition, qui n'a pas encore reçu d'avis en première lecture du Parlement européen, fera l'objet d'un débat d'orientation entre les Douze (IP(92) 585).

Au déjeuner, les Ministres devraient discuter du Rapport 1992 adopté par la Commission le 21 octobre dernier (IP (92) 837) sur la situation dans le secteur des télécommunications ainsi que de sa communication sur les tarifs des télécommunications dans la Communauté (IP (92) 585). La discussion pourrait continuer en séance l'après-midi.

Amitiés,



C. Stathopoulos

Bruxelles, le 20 novembre 1992.

**NOTE BIO (92) 286 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC : AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

Conseil Télécommunications du 19 novembre 1992.
(V. d'Udekem d'Acoz)

Les Douze ont consacré la majeure partie de la journée à l'examen de la proposition de la Commission relative à un Plan d'Action pour l'introduction de services de télévision avancée en Europe. La discussion n'a toutefois pas débouché sur un accord.

Comme l'a souligné le Vice-Président Filippo Maria PANDOLFI au cours de la conférence de presse qui a suivi les débats, la séance a été caractérisée par des efforts continus de médiation et de compromis. La Commission regrette que les efforts déployés n'aient pas abouti à un résultat malgré qu'une large majorité de délégations aient marqué leur accord sur une version amendée du Plan d'Action.

Au cours de la discussion, dix Etats membres ont pu marquer leur accord sur un texte de déclaration du Conseil proposé par la France, qui en substance prenait acte d'un consensus sur le Plan d'Action tout en reportant la décision formelle après le Conseil européen d'Edinburgh compte tenu de ses implications financières.

Dans un esprit de compromis, la Commission a aussi soumis un texte pour tenter de rallier toutes les délégations. La Commission a ainsi suggéré au Conseil d'ajourner ses travaux pour les reprendre après le Conseil européen d'Edinburgh et permettre une décision finale sur le dossier avant la fin de cette année. Cette proposition a recueilli le soutien de onze délégations (toutes sauf le Royaume-Uni).

La Présidence n'ayant pas été en mesure de donner une réponse immédiate à la demande de ces onze Etats membres, la Commission, se basant sur l'article 1er du Règlement interne du Conseil, a formellement demandé la convocation d'un Conseil extraordinaire des Télécommunications avant le 31 décembre 1992.

La Présidence a pour sa part précisé que si la possibilité de la convocation d'un tel Conseil n'était pas exclue, il fallait toutefois d'abord attendre les résultats du Sommet d'Edinburgh, et plus particulièrement les décisions qui y seront prises sur les perspectives financières de la Communauté (Paquet Delors II).

Intervenant lors de la conférence de presse, le représentant de la délégation britannique a fait part de ses doutes sur le bien-fondé du montant de 850 Mécus proposé dans le Plan, estimant qu'il existait d'autres moyens de mieux dépenser les deniers publics. Il a par ailleurs souligné que, pour le Royaume-Uni, les questions relatives au dispositif du Plan et celles relatives à son financement sont indissociables.

Répondant à des questions, le Vice-Président PANDOLFI a précisé que le montant proposé pour le Plan d'Action relevait de la partie du budget communautaire consacré à la R&D, que ce montant ne serait donc en aucun cas prélevé sur les montants affectés au Fonds de cohésion.

Il a rappelé par ailleurs les dispositions de l'article 8 de la directive sur les normes de transmission de télévision par satellite adoptée à l'unanimité par les Douze le 11 mai dernier (directive 92/38, JO L 137 du 20-5-92, p17) et les conclusions du Conseil Télécommunication du 18-19 décembre 1991, où les Douze à l'unanimité également reconnaissent que seule une approche globale prévoyant des mesures d'accompagnement et des moyens financiers adéquats était à même de garantir le succès de l'avenir de la télévision avancée en Europe.

En ce qui concerne les autres points figurant à l'ordre du jour :

- comme prévu, la Résolution relative à la promotion d'une coopération paneuropéenne en matière de numérotation des services de télécommunications, d'une part, et, d'autre part, cette relative à la désignation de bandes de fréquences communes dans la Communauté pour l'introduction du système terrestre de télécommunications dans les avions (TFTS) et des systèmes télématiques destinés aux transports routiers (RTT), ont été adoptées en points A;
- une Résolution relative au Rapport 1992 sur la situation dans le secteur des Télécommunications a été adoptée par les Douze. Lors de l'adoption de cette Résolution, Sir Leon Brittan, Commissaire responsable de la Politique de la Concurrence, a souligné que la Commission fera rapport sur les résultats de la période de consultation lancée suite à l'adoption de ce rapport avant la prochaine réunion du Conseil Télécommunication. Il a par ailleurs précisé que, en ce qui concerne les mesures qui seraient à prendre suite aux conclusions auxquelles mènera cette consultation, la Commission coordonnera son action avec le Conseil dans la mesure où cette action relève de la compétence du Conseil.
- les Douze ont eu un premier échange de vues sur la directive ONP téléphonie vocale; le COREPER a été appelé à poursuivre ses travaux sur ce texte;
- en ce qui concerne le Livre Vert sur les services postaux, la Commission a été invitée par le Conseil à présenter un rapport sur la période de consultation avant le prochain Conseil Télécommunications.

Amitiés,


Bruno DETHOMAS