

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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1257th Council meeting
- Telecommunications -
Luxembourg, 30 June 1988

President: Mr Christian SCHWARZ-SCHILLING

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for Posts and Telecommunications
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER

President of the Government,
Minister for Posts,
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Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT KROES

Minister for Transport and Public
Works

Portugal:

Mr OLIVEIRA MARTINS

Minister for Public Works, Transport
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Mr Eduardo CORREIA MATOS

State Secretary for Transport
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United Kingdom:

Mr John BUTCHER

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

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Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT UP TO 1992 - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Single Act,

Having regard to the Green Paper on the Development of the Common Market for Telecommunications Services and Equipment (COM(87) 290) dated 30 June 1987 and the communication on the Implementation of the Green Paper up to 1992 (COM(88) 48), dated 9 February 1988,

Having regard to the Opinions of the Economic and Social Committee on COM(87) 290 and COM(88) 48,

Having regard to the draft from the Commission,

Whereas the strengthening of European telecommunications has become one of the major conditions for achieving the Community-wide market for goods and services in 1992;

Whereas, as set out in the Green Paper, the current wave of technical innovation resulting from the convergence of telecommunications and computer technology has led to reviews in all Member States, and at world level, of the future organization of the telecommunications sector and its necessary regulatory adjustment;

Whereas the administrations or private operating agencies recognized in the Community and providing public telecommunications services, are hereinafter referred to as the "Telecommunications Administrations",

Whereas the creation of an open common market in telecommunications services and equipment is compatible with continued exclusive provision or special rights of telecommunications administrations as regards the supply and the operation of the network infrastructure and the provision of a limited number of basic services where such exclusive provision is justified by the public service role;

Whereas the justification of continued exclusive provision or special rights where they exist, must be weighed carefully against the obligations of the Telecommunications Administrations which will be retained but also against the restrictions which this may impose on those connected to the network concerning present and future application for their own use, shared use, or provision to third parties; whereas this should take account of the fact that the development of trade must not be affected to such an extent as would be contrary to the interests of the Community;

Whereas the substantial progress made with the Community's 1984 Action Programme for implementing a common telecommunications policy has laid a solid base for the implementation of a common approach in telecommunications;

Whereas the social, regional, industrial and trade aspects must be kept carefully in mind during the progressive implementation of such an approach;

Whereas the Community shall adopt measures with the aim of progressively establishing the internal market, over a period expiring on 31 December 1992, and to this end, communication COM(88) 48 has indicated an Action Plan for the progressive achievement of a competition-oriented Community-wide telecommunications market and the strengthening of European competitiveness;

Whereas the overriding objective must be to develop the conditions for the market to provide European users with a greater variety of telecommunications services, of better quality and at lower cost, affording Europe the full internal and external benefits of a strong telecommunications sector ; and the development in the Community of a strong telecommunications infrastructure, industry and efficient services;

CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS MAJOR POLICY GOALS :

1. creating or ensuring Community-wide network integrity as one of the essential elements for a common market in telecommunications services and equipment, working on the principle of full interconnectivity between all public networks concerned in the Community ;
2. creating progressively an open, Community-wide market for telecommunications services, particularly for value-added services. Due account must be taken of the competition rules of the Treaty. Rapid definition, by directives of the Council, of technical conditions, usage conditions and tariff principles for Open Network Provision, starting with harmonised conditions for the use of leased lines, is of crucial importance, and closely linked with the creation in the first instance of an open market for non-reserved telecommunications services ;
3. promoting the creation of Europe-wide services according to market requirements and appropriate social needs, to enable European users to benefit from a wider range of better and cheaper telecommunication services, so that Europe can reap the internal and external benefits of a strong telecommunications sector.

In addition to appropriate measures in the area of standardization, this should include definition of common tariff principles and the encouragement of co-operation between network operators and others, as far as compatible with Community competition rules; one of the aims in this should include definition of efficient pricing principles throughout the Community while ensuring general service for all;

4. developing further an open, Community-wide market for terminal equipment. For this purpose, quickly reaching agreement on full mutual recognition of type-approval for terminal equipment, on the basis of the rapid development of common European conformity specifications ;
5. developing a Community market on which Telecommunications Administrations and other suppliers can compete on an equal basis ; in particular :
 - . clear separation of regulatory and operational duties, with due regard for the situation in each individual Member State ;

- . application of the relevant rules of the Treaty, notably competition rules, to Telecommunications Administrations and private providers ;
 - . a transparent fiscal environment ;
 - . achievement of full opening of the markets for telecommunications; supplies and works as part of the completion of the internal market.
6. continuing Community measures regarding common standards in the telecommunications sector. The establishment of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is warmly welcomed in this context. However, further efforts are needed to ensure conformity with the general principles of Community standardization policy, taking into account the achievements of European co-operation in the field of telecommunications and the special characteristics of the telecommunications sector ;
7. stimulating European co-operation at all levels, as far as compatible with Community competition rules, and particularly in the field of research and development, in order to secure a strong European presence on the telecommunications markets and to ensure the full participation of all Member States ;
8. creating a social environment for the future development of telecommunications, in line with the Community's overall aim of improving the economic and social situation by extending common policies.

Sustaining the dialogue between the social partners and undertaking in-depth analysis is particularly important in this context, to secure the conditions for developing social consensus concerning the transformation of working conditions and lifestyles resulting from the new telecommunications technologies.

In addition, given the changing requirements, steps must be taken to see that workers have the right skills, to protect personal data and to provide for the individual's access, through the communications media, to an environment significantly richer in information than before ;

9. integrating the less-favored areas of the Community fully into the emerging Community-wide market making full use of existing funds. This is one of the aims of the STAR programme, which is designed to provide these areas with high technology telecommunication networks and equipment as well as developing the endogenous potential, especially in the field of services linked to this sector, thus making the best use of the growth potential of telecommunications.

This should include examination, in particular taking into account the experience of the STAR programme, and within the context of overall Community priorities, of the case for further extension of funds available for this purpose, with a view to narrowing the gap in economic development which still separates these regions from the more prosperous areas of the Community.

10. working out a common position on satellite communications, so that this medium can develop in a favourable environment, taking account of the general rules of operation and exploitation of the network environment, as well as the competition rules of the Treaty and international commitments of Member States.
11. fully taking into account the external aspects of Community measures on telecommunication, and working out as appropriate common positions on international telecommunication problems.

There should be prior Community coordination, according to procedures agreed, on key negotiating positions of concern to the Community in the international organizations dealing with telecommunications, in particular the various conferences of the International Telecommunication Union, as well as a common position on those aspects of the Uruguay Round which cover telecommunications.

NOTES WITH SATISFACTION :

that substantial progress has been made with the Community's 1984 action programme approved at the Council's meeting of 17 December 1984 for implementing a common telecommunications policy, and applying Community law with the aim of creating a Community-wide telecommunications market, particularly in the following areas:

- establishment of standards, and steps towards the mutual recognition of type approval for terminal equipment ;
- development of advanced telecommunications technologies, with the start of the RACE programme ;
- access to modern telecommunications for the less-favoured areas of the Community, with the launching of the STAR programme ;
- co-ordination of technical plans and strategies for the introduction of new services, in particular the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), and pan-European digital public mobile communications ;

GIVES ITS GENERAL SUPPORT

to the objectives of the action programme set out in COM(88) 48, which relates to the progressive achievement of a competition-oriented Community-wide telecommunications market up to 1992, having regard also to Articles 8a and 8c of the Single Act, and the strengthening of European competitiveness, while safeguarding the public service goals of telecommunications.

In this context and in the spirit of the conclusions of the Council of 17 December 1984, under which it was established, importance is accorded to the role played by the Senior Officials Group on Telecommunications (SOG-T).

INVITES THE COMMISSION

to propose, where required, the measures necessary for pursuing the achievement of these goals, to be taken in priority areas on the basis of the appropriate Community procedures, in particular for the creation of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment and taking appropriate account also of the external dimension of these measures.

INTENDS

to meet, in the future, periodically on telecommunications issues, in order to pursue, together with the Commission, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the rapid completion of the internal market for telecommunications services and equipment up to 1992, according to the goals set out.

WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CONFERENCE

The Council arrived at a common position by Member States for the forthcoming ITU World Administrative Telephone and Telegraph Conference, WATTC 88, in Melbourne.

GUIDELINES ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS

The Council set out some guidelines for future work in the following areas:

- opening-up of public telecommunications contracts by 1992;
- creation of a standard Europe-wide emergency call number;
- high-definition television (HDTV);
- development of broad-band links - electronic highways.

LIMITING OF ELECTROMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE

The Council took note with satisfaction of progress to date in drawing up a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility.

This Directive is designed to harmonize national provisions limiting electromagnetic disturbance caused by electrical or electromagnetic appliances. It covers radio and TV receivers, mobile radios, medical apparatus, domestic appliances, marine radio and aeronautical apparatus, fluorescent lamps, etc.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with discussions in order for it to arrive at a conclusion as soon as possible after receiving the European Parliament's Opinion.

EEC-Morocco relations

The Council formally adopted the Decisions on the conclusion of the Additional Protocols and the Protocol on financial and technical co-operation to the EEC-Morocco Co-operation Agreement.

Food aid

The Council formally adopted the Regulation extending Regulation (EEC) No 3972/86 on food-aid policy and food-aid management until 30 June 1989.

Own resources

The Council formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 2891/77 implementing the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources.

Technical barriers

The Council adopted the Directive amending for the fourth time Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products (technical adaptation and labelling amendments).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs union - Commercial policy

The Council formally adopted the:

- Regulation concerning triangular traffic under the outward processing relief arrangements and the standard exchange system;
- Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted a common position on draft Decisions No 2/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees supplementing and amending Annex III of Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation (sodium perborate).

Relations with Austria - GATT

The Council adopted the Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of Agreed Minutes relating to certain agricultural products negotiated between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria under Article XXVIII of the GATT.

Small and medium-sized enterprises

The Council formally adopted the Resolution on improving the environment of undertakings and on promoting the development on small and medium-sized enterprises in the Community (see press release - Internal Market/Consumer Protection - 7 June 1988, in 6635/88 (Presse 78)).

Transport

The Council formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3568/83 on the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States (see press release - Transport - 20 and 21 June 1988, in 7005/88 (Presse 94)).

Appointments

On a proposal from the Portuguese Government, the Council appointed Dr José TELLES member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Dr Manuel Sá Coutinho DE LENCASTRE, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

On a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council also appointed Mr Ray TUMULTY alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in place of Mr M. CASSIDY, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988.

Bruxelles, le 28 Juin 1988

NOTE BIO(88) 229 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL TELECOMMUNICATION (C. LIEBANA)

Les grands objectifs d'une politique communautaire des télécommunications, tels qu'exposés par la Commission dans son "livre vert" sur les télécommunications de Juin 1987, seront endosés par le Conseil des ministres de la Communauté lors de sa réunion du 30 Juin prochain à Luxembourg. Selon le Vice-Président Narjes, responsable pour la politique de télécommunications, la Commission attend un saut qualitatif dans la définition d'une vraie politique communautaire en matière de télécommunications.

Il est prévu, en effet, que le Conseil adoptera une résolution qui consacrera les objectifs communautaires d'une politique dans ce domaine, notamment en créant ou en assurant l'intégrité d'un réseau de dimension communautaire fondé sur le principe d'une totale interopérabilité des réseaux; en ouvrant progressivement le marché communautaire aux services de télécommunications et, en particulier, aux services de valeur ajoutée; en encourageant la création de services européens; en poursuivant le développement d'un marché communautaire ouvert pour les équipements terminaux; en développant un marché communautaire sur lequel les administrations des télécommunications et d'autres fournisseurs puissent se concurrencer sur un pied d'égalité; et en intégrant pleinement les régions défavorisées de la Communauté. En outre, il est prévu une concertation de la positions des Etats membres dans les enceintes Internationales. Dans ce contexte, le Conseil adoptera une position commune face à la Conférence Administrative Mondiale des Télégraphes et Téléphones de l'UIT - CAMTT 88/WATTC 88 - qui aura lieu à Melbourne (Australie) en novembre prochain.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil examinera une série de propositions de la Commission sur d'importants aspects des télécommunications, à savoir :

L'ouverture des marchés publics dans le secteur des télécommunications.

Dans ce domaine, le Conseil examinera une déclaration dans laquelle, après avoir constaté le large consensus existant sur la nécessité de prendre rapidement, en vue de l'achèvement du marché intérieur en 1992, des mesures contraignantes pour assurer l'ouverture de ces marchés, le Conseil exprimera son souhait que les travaux portant sur l'ouverture des marchés publics commencent rapidement et que les travaux d'harmonisation des spécifications communes soient poursuivis rapidement.

L'instauration d'un numéro de téléphone européen d'urgence.

Il est prévu que le Conseil donne son appui politique à l'idée de la Commission d'instaurer le plus tôt possible un numéro de téléphone unique d'urgence pour toute la Communauté qui, dans un premier temps, pourrait coexister avec les différents numéros nationaux actuels. Le Conseil pourrait adopter une déclaration

dans laquelle il demande le commencement immédiat des travaux sur l'introduction d'un tel numéro qui donne l'accès automatique aux différents systèmes nationaux d'urgence et sur la planification à plus long terme d'un groupe de numéros de téléphone européens pour des appels d'urgence spécifiques, tels que les pompiers et les urgences médicales.

La télévision à haute définition.

Dans ce domaine, où l'Europe s'efforce de voir reconnaître ses normes internationalement face à la concurrence d'autres systèmes, tels que le japonais, et où une partie importante de la télévision de demain se joue, il est prévu que le Conseil adopte une déclaration, à l'instar de la Commission, dans laquelle il note avec satisfaction le succès considérable remporté à ce jour par l'industrie européenne, coopérant dans le cadre d'EUREKA, concernant la définition d'une philosophie d'évolution compatible vers la télévision à haute définition (HDTV), l'identification des paramètres d'un système HDTV installé dans un environnement européen et dans le monde en général, et le développement des équipements prototypes en vue de la mise en oeuvre d'un tel système.

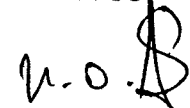
Les mécanismes de coordination et de consultation devront être améliorés et des chaînes de TV par satellite à base MAC, avec une couverture géographique appropriée, seront absolument nécessaires pour réussir l'introduction de la HDTV en Europe. Des ressources considérables, ainsi qu'un fonds commun important d'expertise professionnelle, seront nécessaires pour promouvoir et développer ce système.

Les autoroutes électroniques.

La Commission a présenté une communication au Conseil où elle propose que la Communauté s'engage fermement en vue du développement des liaisons nationales et bilatérales à grande vitesse de manière à les transformer en "autoroutes électroniques" véritablement pan-européennes, qui sont les bases nécessaires pour l'introduction des services européens avancés à large bande. La Commission a proposé, en outre, la création d'un groupe d'experts pour comparer les projets nationaux et identifier les axes de télécommunications d'importance paneuropéenne.

Il est prévu que le Conseil adopte une déclaration dans laquelle il appuyera les objectifs de la Commission.

Amitiés


C.-D. EHLERMANN

Bruxelles, le premier juillet 1988

NOTE BIO(88) 229 SUITE 1 ET FIN AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil Télécommunications (C. LIEBANA).-

Le Conseil des ministres de Télécommunications, le premier à se réunir dans l'histoire de la Communauté, a donné son appui politique aux grands objectifs d'une politique communautaire dans ce secteur, tels que proposés dans le "Livre vert" de la Commission, présenté en Juin 1987.

L'appui du Conseil a adopté la forme d'une résolution qui comprend toute une série de mesures à mettre en oeuvre d'ici à 1992, notamment le développement d'un marché communautaire ouvert pour les terminaux de télécommunications; la création progressive d'un marché ouvert de services de télécommunication à l'échelle communautaire, particulièrement pour les services à valeur ajoutée, qui réponde aux exigences du marché et aux nécessités sociales; l'intensification des mesures communautaires sur des normes de télécommunication communes; la stimulation de la coopération communautaire à tous les niveaux entre les administrations des PTT et d'autres, particulièrement dans le domaine de la recherche et du développement; et l'application intensifiée des moyens de télécommunication avancés dans les régions les moins favorisées.

Le Conseil a ensuite adopté les bases d'une position commune dans la Conférence Administrative Mondiale des Télégraphes et Téléphones (CAMTT 88/WATTC 88) qui se tiendra en novembre à Melbourne et qui devra établir les règles générales pour le développement futur des télécommunications au niveau mondial. Comme l'a souligné le Vice-Président Narjes, la Commission entend que cette coordination se poursuive avant et pendant la Conférence et qu'il ne s'agit donc pas d'un acte unique et isolé.

Le Conseil a ensuite adopté une série de déclarations qui concernent l'établissement d'un numéro d'appel d'urgence unique européen; le développement des liaisons à large bande et la création d'"autoroutes électroniques" entre les Etats membres, qui couvriront tout le territoire de la Communauté; le lancement d'un effort important pour préparer l'introduction des services de télévision à haute définition et l'ouverture des marchés publics dans le domaine des télécommunications.

Les ministres ont, finalement, chargé le COREPER de poursuivre l'examen de la proposition de directive concernant le rapprochement des législations des Etats membres relatives à la compatibilité électro-magnétique, où des différences subsistent entre les diverses délégations.

Amitiés


C.-D. EHLERMANN