

Europe's Way to the Information Society

An Action Plan

Current status

Objectives	DG	Measures	Decision Making Process	Original Calendar	New Calendar (if different from planned)	Explanations - Implications
I. REGULATORY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK						
1 Towards a competitive environment	XIII-A	Green Paper on the liberalisation of telecom infrastructure and cable TV networks: principles & timetable (Part I)	Resolution by Council - 17/11/94 Resolution by EP 7/95	Nov-94		The Green Paper establishes the general principle of the free choice of infrastructure to deliver services already open to competition. It proposes immediate limited action now and links full competition to the 1998 date for services liberalisation.
	XIII-A	Green Paper on the liberalisation of telecom infrastructure and cable TV networks: implementation measures (Part II)	Resolution by Council 13/6/95	Jan-95	13/6/95	The Green Paper has launched a consultation on the issues raised by allowing competition in infrastructure for the basic telephone service and the relevant safeguards. It sets out future policy on infrastructure liberalisation and initiates public debate on the issues.
	XIII-A	Proposal for a EP and Council directive on the application of ONP (Open Network Provision) to voice telephony	Final adoption by Council and EP	Jul-94	Nov-95	A proposal has been re-submitted at the urging of Parliament, following their rejection of the Council Common Position in July 1994, the conciliation procedure having failed over the issue of comitology. The proposal builds on the agreements reached between the council and the EP during the conciliation procedure. The Directive provides a foundation for universal voice telephony service. A common position was reached by Council on 13 June 95
	XIII-A	Communication on the present status and future approach for open access to telecommunications networks and services (Open Network Provision - ONP)	Adoption by the Commission	Oct-94	Nov-94	The Communication confirms the importance of the ONP principles of open and efficient access in the liberalised telecoms environment from 1998. It considers the scope of application of ONP and launches the debate prior to legislation at the end of 1995.
	XIII-A & IV	Proposal for a EP and Council Directive updating the open network provision (ONP) framework	Adoption by the Commission	Dec-95	Oct-95	As required by Council Resolution 93/C213/01 the Commission must table measures by 1 Jan. 1996 to implement the regulatory framework for a competitive environment in 1998. The adaptation of ONP to this new environment will be a central element.
	XIII-A	Proposal for a EP and Council Directive on Interconnection in the context of ONP	Adoption by the Commission	Jun-95	Jul-95	Within the package of reform measures for 1998, there is general support for a common framework for interconnection between the traditional operators and new entrants. This framework will assist the achievement of universal service. It will create a stable regulatory framework for interconnection which is essential in the future competitive environment.
	XIII-A & IV	Proposal for a Directive amending the ONP leased lines directive	Adoption by the Commission		Oct-95	
	XIII-A & IV	Proposal for a directive on licensing of telecom services	Adoption by the Commission		Second semester 95	The proposal includes all communications services
	XV-5	Communication concerning a transparency mechanism	Adoption by the Commission		July 95	The communication will examine the need for an internal market mechanism which would ensure that any new national proposals for regulation of new services would be transparent and coherent with existing internal market principles.

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2 Standardisation, interconnection and interoperability	III & X & XIII & XV	Green paper on new audiovisual services	Adoption by the Commission Communication to the Council		1st Semester 96	
	III-B	A major Workshop on ICT related aspects of standardisation has been held in November 94		28-30 Nov-94		The communication refers to mechanisms for the improvement of the transparency of national measures related to the information society services (excluding telecoms)
	III-B	Communication on wider use of standardisation to support EU policy	Adoption by the Commission	Oct-94	Jul-95	Document ready since Dec.94. Currently undergoing translations to cover the new Member States
	III-B	Proposal for adaptation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) standardisation, testing and certification policy	Adoption by Council Commission's Proposal	Jun-95	2nd semester 95 Dec-95	The Commission is drawing up proposals following the outcome of the ICT workshop in November 1994.
	XIII & III & IV	Report on the Directive on mutual recognition of type approval for terminals	Report to Council and EP	Nov-95	Sept-95	Draft report has completed interservice consultation. Final draft, taking into account Member State comments is expected in Sept-95
	XIII & III & IV	Proposal for a Directive updating the directive on mutual recognition of type approval for terminals, in particular in respect of mobile terminals	Adoption by Council	Dec-95		Action in the context of the mobile Green Paper aiming at extending the scope of existing directive 91/263
	XIII-A	Advanced broadcasting: revised Directive on TV standards	Council has agreed on a common position EP 2nd reading Adoption by Council	Nov-94	 Jun-95 Autumn 95	The Directive establishes standards for advanced TV broadcasting and. of conditional access to pay television, following the outcome of an industry-wide consultation on this topic.
3 Tariffs	XIII-A	Implement Council Directive on application of ONP/leased lines by monitoring transposition in Member States (92/44/EEC)	Commission to issue a report on the functioning of the Directive	Continued action		As required by the Council resolution of the 22-Jul-94 the Commission must support and follow-up a rapid and effective implementation of the current regulatory environment and especially the application of ONP measures. The aim is to guarantee the availability of a standard set of voice grade and digital circuits up to 2 Mbps and for tariffs of leased lines to be cost-oriented. This should result in pressure to reduce pricing levels for leased lines, in particular for international leased lines between MS and guarantee adequate action by national regulatory authorities.
	XIII-A	Report on the principles governing the financing of Universal Service	Consultation with MS-report to EP and Council	Dec-95		As required by Council Resolution 94/C48/01, the Commission must report on its bi-lateral contacts with Member States on scope and financing of universal service. This will be an important element in developing a Union-wide framework for interconnection.

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4 Worldwide dimension	I-M XIII-A	Basic telecommunications services multilateral negotiations (a continuation of the negotiations under the Uruguay Round)	Commission to negotiate on behalf of the Community and its Member States. Coordination in the 113 Committee.	Target date April 1996		The establishment of ground rules will be followed by the exchange of commitments opening and securing access to export markets for EU industries. For the Union, these shall be based upon the internal liberalisation process.
	XV-E & III	IPR-related issues		Continued Action		International aspects should be addressed on a global basis, notably under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The Union is participating actively in these discussions.
	XIII-A & III-B & I-M	Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)	Implementation of Council Directive (91/263/EEC, April 1991) on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning telecom terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity.	Continued Action		Art. 10.5 of this Directive states that European notified bodies shall recognise documentation issued by third country relevant bodies, when agreements between the Community and the third country concerned have been concluded. A mandate has been given by the Council to the Commission to negotiate MRAs for the regulated areas. Negotiations are currently taking place between the EU and USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland. Preliminary meetings have taken place with Japan, Korea, Singapore and Israel in 1995
	X-C & ISPO & III-A & III-F & XIII & SG	Global Information Society promotion	G7 conference	Feb-95		A meeting of relevant G7 ministers took place in Brussels on Feb 25-26 1995. The meeting emphasised the necessity to encourage the development of a worldwide information society. Eleven pilot projects were identified for international cooperation. The implementation of the G7 conclusions across the different EC policies related to Information Society is under way. A progress report on the pilot project was presented at the Halifax G7 meeting in June.
	III-F	International RTD cooperation in Intelligent Manufacturing Systems. Follow-up to the IMS Feasibility Study	Request to Council for negotiation mandate Conclusion of international IMS agreement	Not on orig. list	March-95 Sum/Aut 95	Negotiation mandate granted. If the international agreement is achieved, EU funding for IMS will be provided from 4th FP. International negotiations are under way with Australia, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Japan and the USA. The cooperation will contribute to the development and deployment of technologies and standards for global manufacturing in a knowledge based economy.
5 Intellectual property rights (IPRs)	XV-E & XIII	Proposed Directive on legal protection of databases	Adoption by EP and Council	Dec-94	End-96	The Directive provides for a harmonised protection for databases, based on copyright and other instruments of intellectual property. This initiative was announced in the Commission's Working Programme in the field of copyright of 1990.
	XV-E & XIII	Green Paper on IPRs in the information society	Adoption by the Commission	Mar-95	July-95	The Green Paper identifies in detail those issues in the field of intellectual property where initiatives may be needed with respect to the IPRs exploited for the new electronic services. It is based on the conclusions of a hearing with interested circles in July 1994. The directive is currently in interservice consultation.
	XV-E	Directive on private copying	Adoption by the Commission	Dec-94	Oct-95	This initiative was announced in the Commission's Working Programme in the field of copyright of 1990. It intends to eliminate the distortions of trade and competition caused by the quite divergent legislation in Member States on the copyright based remuneration for home taping.

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6 Privacy	XV-D & XIII-E	General Directive on the protection of privacy with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data	Adoption by EP and council	Dec-94 Mar-95	Dec-95	The general directive provides for a number of rights of the data subject and of obligations on the controller of data processing (fair processing, quality of data, law- fullness of processing, notification of certain processing). The directive is designed to ensure a high level of protection for individuals and creates a level playing field for the free circulation of personal data in the Community. The principles of the directive will constitute the basis for specific rules in the telecommunications field and apply to all issues of the Information Society not covered by the latter.
	XIII-A & XV-D & III-B	Directive on the protection of personal data and privacy in the context of digital telecommunications networks	Adoption by EP and council	Dec-94 Mar-95	Dec-96	This measure provides a specific set of safeguards, based on the general directive, but adapted to digital communications. It is central to maintaining public confidence in the emergence of, in particular, personal communications and the Information Society.
7 Electronic protection, legal protection and security	XIII-B	Communication on security issues and the role of the Member States	Adoption by the Commission	Dec-94	Dec-95	The Communication takes due account of the role of Member States with respect to security issues.
	XIII-B	Follow-up to INFOSEC I (Senior Officials Group on Information Security)	Adoption by the Commission	Sep-94		The Commission addresses the requirements for encryption for business and commerce and also the integrity of signatures.
	XV-E & XIII	Green paper on the legal protection of encrypted broadcasts	Adoption by the Commission	Dec-94	Oct-95	The Green Paper will identify, in the light of the Internal Market principles, the measures needed to safeguard the legal protection of encrypted broadcasts on an equal level through the Community. It is closely related to IPR protection, to media policy and to the Directive on satellite and cable broadcasting of 1993.
8 Media Ownership	XV-E	Follow-up to the communication to the Council and EP on media pluralism (which was adopted in Oct.94)	Currently under preparation	New action		Divergent rules on media ownership may cause obstacles to the free flow of media services and to the freedom of establishment of media companies within the community. On October 5 1994, after consultations with the parties concerned, the Commission adopted a communication on the follow-up to the Green Paper. The communication analyses the results of the consultations and concludes that the Community initiative on media ownership might prove necessary. A second consultation has been launched in order to examine certain questions in more detail, in particular those concerning the content of a possible initiative. The Commission will adopt a definitive position after the analysis of the outcome of the second consultation.
9 Competition	IV-B	Procedures as regards mobile telephony monopolies	Action under way Draft Art.90 iii Directive	Continued action		Following the consultation on the Mobil Green Paper, there has been general support for the elimination of the monopoly provision of different mobile Services. Appropriate action can be brought under the competition rules to remove these monopolies.
	IV-B & XIII-A	Liberalisation of cable TV and mobile telephony Final liberalisation of telecom infra-structures	Draft Art.90iii directive. Discussed in Council of the 13-6-95	June 95	Proposed in 96	Following political discussion (in the Telecoms Council 17/11/94) of the principle of infrastructure competition, appropriate legal measures will be taken to ensure that restrictions on infrastructure competition are consistent with EC Treaty obligations.
10 Audiovisual	X-C & XIII	"Television without Frontiers" Directive, revised Council directive	Adoption by Commission	Dec-94	Jan-95	Regulatory framework for transnational movement of television broadcast services.

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	X-C	Media II Programme	Commission Proposal	Not on orig. list		Financial support mechanisms for key sectors of the programmes industry.
	XIII-A & X-C	Action Plan for the introduction of advanced television in Europe	First report adopted by Commission	Not on orig. list	Jun-95	Financial support mechanism to assist broadcasters and programme producers with extra costs of introducing wide-screen 16:9 format. The 16:9 screen format is the only globally agreed parameter for the future of TV, including HDTV. It embodies cinema/TV convergence.
			Commission decision on allocation of broadcast funding following call of the 1/95		Jul-95	

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II. NETWORKS, BASIC SERVICES, APPLICATIONS AND CONTENT

1	Networks	XIII-A	Euro-ISDN: Guidelines	Formal adoption by Council [2nd reading on June 13]	Nov-94		The objective of these proposals is the rapid deployment of EURO-ISDN (European wide standards for harmonised ISDN) and the availability of a number of interoperable basic services and applications. A particular emphasis will be attached to requirements of SMEs.
			Euro-ISDN: Community Action superseded by draft financial regulation on TEN community financing		Jul-94	2nd semester 95	
		XIII-A	Proposal for a Commission Decision on Satellite personal communications	Adoption by the Commission	Mar-95	Oct- 95	The aim is to develop action at a Union level in the field of satellite personal communications in the EU industry including the selection and licensing processes.
		IV-B & XIII-A	Satellite-communications: liberalisation of satellite services and terminals	Commission Directive (art.90) in consultation with the Council. Directive 94/46/EC of 13/10/94.	Dec-94	Already adopted by EC in Oct.-94	Following Council Resolution 92/C8/01 the Directive will extend the scope of Directives 88/301/EEC and 90/388/EEC to remove monopolies over satellite equipment and services.
		XIII-A	Follow-up to Communication on access to space segment	Council Resolution of 17/10/94	Dec-94		Following public consultation on the Communication, appropriate measures and initiatives will be proposed.
		XIII-A	Establish a series of guidelines covering trans-European Telecom Networks	Commission's proposal TEN-Telecom Council and EP Decision.	Jun-95		The intention is to establish a series of guidelines for trans. European telecommunications networks (bearer networks, generic services and applications) and incorporate the TEN telecom initiatives taken to date.

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2 Basic Services	XIII-A	Communication on follow-up to Green Paper on mobile & personal communications	Adoption by the Commission Council Resolution 13-6-95	Dec-94 - Mar-95 June 95	Nov. 94 - Jun 95	The Communication will report on the views expressed in the Consultation on the Mobile G.P. and propose concrete measures and a timetable to act on the consensus which emerges. On the basis of this, political support will be sought from the Member States.
	VII-A	Communication on navigation by satellites	Transport-Council Resolution	Nov.-94	22-11-95	The communication refers to the European contribution to the development of a global navigation satellite system (GNSS). This communication follows a Council resolution on the same subject [COM(94)248] and a resolution of the EP in May 94 on space transport policy.
	XIII-A & III	European Forum for Basic Services		-	Seminar 30 May 95	It has been discussed within an internal working group. A document giving details of the Forum is available.
		Information Society Coordination and Consultation Structures	Adoption by the Commission	Feb-95		These are: Commissioners' group on information society, the creation of ISPO (Information society project office), the Information Society Forum and the High Level Experts Group (the later two as external consultation bodies)
3 Applications	III-B	IDA: Telematic interchange of data between administrations	Council decision 20-1-95 Communication to EP in progress	Dec-94	Jan-95	A call for tender (May) has been issued on selected projects for horizontal and sectoral tasks.
	III-F	Specific R&D programme in Information Technologies	Adoption by Council	Sep-94		Focused calls for proposals were held on 15-Dec-94, 15-Jun and 15-Mar. Further calls are currently planned on 15-Sep, 15-Dec-95 and 15-Mar-96 with deadlines three months after each call. The programme contributes to providing technologies, standards and best practices for information society.
	XIII-B	Specific R&D programme on Advanced Communications, Technologies and Services	Adoption by Council	Jun-94		The call for proposals, published in September 94, closed on 15 March 95. Evaluation and selection of proposals will be completed by June 95.
	XIII-C&E	Specific R&D programme on Telematics Applications	Adoption by Council	Sep-94		The first call for proposals closed on 15 March 95 and a second call on 15th of June. Further calls are expected to be launched on 15 Sept.95 and in 96. Many of the priority application areas of the Action Plan are covered by the programme. The implications for the deployment of services and possible actions are being assessed in areas such as healthcare, public administrations, education and training, libraries and related areas, transport, urban and rural development, research networks, disabled and elderly people.
	XIII-C & III-F	Communication on Research Networks	Adoption by the Commission	Not on orig. list		Communication on a European infrastructure linking national research networks, research centers and universities through high bandwidth infrastructures.
	XIII-C	Harmonisation measures for transport telematics	Adoption by Council	Not on orig. list	Nov-95	Contributing to creating the market conditions and technical framework for establishing a transport telematics infrastructure for traffic information services.

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		XIII-C, III, V, X, XII, XXII Task force on Educational Multi-media Software	-	Not on orig. list	Apr-Dec 95	The mission of the task force is to establish a clear picture of the European situation in educational multimedia software and to put forward an action plan in order to enable the users concerned to better benefit from the new technologies in education and training, to improve the efficiency of European research and to strengthen the position of the European multimedia industry. Apr/Jun-95: hearings of industry and users Oct-Dec95: finbal report, recommendations
		VII-A & XIII-C Communication on Telematics applications for transport in Europe	Adopted by the Commission on November 4; discussed in Telecom Council Nov-94 . Hearing EP Apr-95	Dec-94	Nov-94 - April-95	The communication provides the basis for an action plan for the implementation of Transport Telematics in Europe. Financial engineering of public-private partnerships needs closer attention.
		III & XIII Communication on a methodology for the implementation of information society applications	Adoption by the Commission- presented 13/6/95	Not on orig. list	May-95	This communications proposes a methodological approach of a general nature for the implementation of all types of applications which represent the driving force of the Information Society.
		III & XIII Communication on information society and RTD	Adoption by the Commission	Not on orig. list	Oct-95	The Communication will have as its objective to explore the implications of the growth of the information society on the conduct of research and development in the EU.
		XV-B SIMAP (Système d'Information pour les Marchés Publics				SIMAP was launched in July 1994. The Pilot phase will start in August 1995 with the participation of the Member states. SIMAP aims to introduce electronic tendering procedures to public procurement for the Administrations. "Electronic Tendering" is one of the applications mentioned in the Bangemann report.
4 Content	XIII-E	INFO 2000 programme	Communication-to-Commission	Dec-94	Jul-95	A multi-annual programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging Information Society.
	X-C	Follow-up to the Green Paper on audiovisuals	Commission's Communication	Dec-94	Jan-95	Initiatives to strengthen the programme industry (Film and TV).

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III. SOCIAL, SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS						
	V	Analysis of conditions for optimal exploitation of new possibilities of employment and growth linked to technological change, including guidelines to facilitate economic and social adaptation			On-going action	These analyses are being made as part of the follow-up to the White Paper, partly in examination of labour issues, like the social protection of teleworkers.
	V & III & XIII	Report outlining the needs and effective options to develop flexible organisational structures in enterprises	Adoption by the Commission	94-95	Sept-Oct 95	The report will address productivity, employment and social aspects of "the flexible firm" and including issues such as: working hours, telework and networking between enterprises.
	XIII-E & III-F	Communication addressing European linguistic issues and means to stimulate the emerging language-based industry	The Commission will prepare a Communication	Dec-94 Mar-95	2nd semester 95	This Communication will address the stimulation, coordination and regulatory initiatives to be undertaken in co-operation with the MS for the creation of a linguistic infrastructure of resources and services that improve language communication. It will also overcome language barriers hampering the development of the information society. The measures proposed will increase the use and efficiency of information and communication systems while contributing to the enrichment of the linguistic diversity of Europe and reinforcing Europe's language industry.
	XIII & XVI & ISPO	Regional Information Society Initiative	-	Not on original list	Nov-94	On November the 28th, several regions signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing themselves for the next five years to undertake actions in order to promote and accelerate information society actions at regional level and at an inter-regional level. The Commission has supported the regions in order to help them achieve the targets set out in their MoU.
	XVI, III, V, XIII, ISPO	Regional Information Society Call for Proposals	Interservice consultation Publication of a call	Not on original list	Jun-95	The call for proposals aims to assist regional and local authorities wishing to assess the opportunities which are opening up from the launching of the information society, to devise a relevant strategic plan and to carry out pilot projects. This will enable the integration of the Information Society into regional development policies - particularly for less favoured regions - and to pool their experience pursuant to Art. 10 of the ERDF Regulation.