

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**7280/93 (Presse 104)**

**1673rd Council meeting**

**- Telecommunications -**

**Luxembourg, 16 June 1993**

**President: Mr Arne MELCHIOR**

**Minister for Communications of  
the Kingdom of Denmark**

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**7280/93 (Presse 104 - G)**

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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 Arne MELCHIOR  
Mr Helge ISRAELSEN

Minister for Communications  
State Secretary for Communications

Germany  
Mr Wolfgang BÖTSCH

Federal Minister of Posts and Telecommunications

Greece  
Mr Panayiotis DELIMITSOS

State Secretary for Communications

Spain  
Mr José BORRELL

Minister for Communications

France  
Mr Gérard LONGUET

Minister for Posts and Telecommunications

Ireland  
Mr Noel TREACY

Minister for Communications

Italy  
Mr Maurizio PAGANI

Minister for Posts and Telecommunications

Luxembourg  
Mr Jean-Marc HOSCHEIT

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands  
Mrs J.R.H. MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal  
Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL

Minister for Public Works, Transport and Communications

United Kingdom  
Mr Patrick McLOUGHLIN

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

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Commission

Mr Martin BANGEMANN  
Mr Karel VAN MIERT

Member  
Member

**DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDS IN THE FIELD OF ADVANCED  
TELEVISION SERVICES - COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

The Council agreed to the text of the following Resolution, the Annex to which contains the Action Plan for the Introduction of Advanced Television Services in Europe. The Decision on the Action Plan will be adopted without further discussion at a forthcoming Council meeting in July 1993.

"The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas the Community, through Council Decision 89/337/EEC, Council Decision 89/630/EEC and Council Directive 92/38/EEC, recognized the strategic importance of High Definition Television (HDTV) for the European consumer electronics industry and for the European television and film industries, and established the strategy framework for the introduction of European HDTV;

Whereas the Council, through this Resolution, has agreed the framework for an Action Plan for the Introduction of Advanced Television Services in Europe having the objective of accelerating the development of the market for advanced television services in the widescreen 16:9 format;

Whereas it is necessary to bring forward the review of Council Directive 92/38/EEC to ensure its coherence with current market and technological realities;

Whereas digital technology will be important for future television systems;

Whereas it is important that Europe have a coherent global approach to the development of technology and standards for new digital television systems;

Having reached agreement on the framework for an Action Plan as contained in Annex I to this Resolution,

considers that:

1. An Action Plan for the Introduction of Advanced Television Services in Europe should be accompanied by additional measures to ensure the coherence of Community policy for advanced television;
2. One of these measures is a revision of Council Directive 92/38/EEC on standards for television broadcasting as provided for in the text, in order to adapt it to the current market and technological realities;
3. Digital technology is essential for future television systems. It is important that the Community develops a coherent global approach to the development of technology and standards for new digital television systems;

invites the Commission:

1. To propose to the Council, before 1 October 1993, a revision of Council Directive 92/38/EEC

reflecting the need for a flexible and workable regulatory framework which responds to the needs of the market and to technological developments. In this respect, the proposals could take account inter alia of the following issues:

- (i) The possible need to expand the scope to allow other standards, in addition to D2-MAC, to be used for the broadcast of not completely digital 625 line television services in the 16:9 format;
  - (ii) The possible need to expand the scope to cover standards for terrestrial transmission and cable distribution;
  - (iii) The possible need to limit the number of different standards as far as possible;
  - (iv) The possible need for a European non-proprietary encryption/conditional access system serving a number of competing service providers;
  - (v) The possible requirement that all new television transmission and encryption systems to be used in the Community should be standardized by the competent European standardization bodies;
  - (vi) The possible need to change other Articles of the Directive to ensure consistency following any changes introduced above.
2. To bring forward to the Council before 1 October 1993 a communication and possible proposals on digital television containing inter alia the following elements:
- (i) Mechanisms for achieving early agreement on a common Community perspective on the development and needs of the market for digital television systems which can inform and guide the standardization of such systems, including the feasibility of a single (family of) digital television standard(s) and matching encryption system(s);
  - (ii) A timetable for the development, system specification, system implementation, evaluation and subsequent standardization;
  - (iii) Community funding of the above activities, if required.

adopts:

the Framework Agreement for an Action Plan for the Introduction of Advanced Television services in Europe set out in Annex 1;

instructs:

COREPER to ensure that the detailed text of the Action Plan is modified to take account of the principles contained in the Framework Agreement;

agrees:

that the modified text of the Action Plan will be adopted, as an "A" item, by the Council before the end of July 1993.

Annex I to the ResolutionFramework Agreement for an Action Plan for the Introduction of Advanced Television Services in Europe

1. The plan is solely directed at promoting the 16:9 format (625 or 1250 lines), irrespective of the European television standard used, and irrespective of the broadcasting mode (terrestrial, satellite or cable).
2. The EEC funds shall cover only part of the difference in costs between production/broadcasting in the customary 4:3 format and in the 16:9 format; the EEC funds shall generally cover up to only 50% of the extra costs. The remaining 50% are to be provided from other sources. The Council attaches great importance to the involvement of the economic operators in the financing and agrees that the funding provided by the economic operators shall be at least 50% of the non-Community funding. Such economic operators shall be given due recognition under EC R&D and standardization activities always in accordance with the general rules for participation in these actions.
3. The support is allocated on a yearly "first-come-first-served" basis with preference for projects where the matching funds stem from the economic operators.
4. 30% of the EEC funding will be reserved for markets not being fully serviced in the early stages of the implementation of the Action Plan. These funds could cover up to 80% of the extra costs, while the remaining 20% is to be provided from other sources.
5. The Action Plan should be as simple as possible and based on transparent, fair and unbureaucratic mechanisms.
6. The funds shall be allocated to broadcasters or producers based in the EEC on the basis of hours produced and transmitted in the 16:9 format, with a maximum support of x ecus per hour. The support will depend on the actual costs of the type of programme and its technical quality, with special emphasis on programmes produced in Europe. New productions will thus receive the highest level of support. Only broadcasters transmitting more than 50 hours of 16:9 services per year will receive funding.
7. Community funding is fixed at 160 MECU. The funding will be given only provided applicants have demonstrated that other sources have already committed themselves to providing the remaining 50%. In addition to the 160 MECU, 68 MECU are held in reserve until 1 January 1995 for markets not being serviced in the early stages of the implementation of the Action Plan. The 68 MECU will have to be matched by 17 MECU from other sources.
8. The Action Plan shall cover a period of four years expiring on 30 June 1997.
9. Emphasis will be given to creating a considerable spread in the markets serviced by the Action Plan, with due recognition of the need to achieve the critical mass, and facilitating the uptake of all technologies including fully digital technology."

**SATELLITE EARTH STATION EQUIPMENT**

The Council approved the substance of a common position on the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning satellite earth station equipment, amending the scope of Directive 91/263/EEC (telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity).

Formal adoption of the Directive will take place at a forthcoming meeting after finalization of the texts.

This Directive is the first in a series aimed at regulating the satellite communications services and equipment sector. It ensues from the Council Resolution of 19 December 1991, which enunciated the objective of the harmonization and liberalization of appropriate satellite earth stations and takes into account the outcome of the Commission's consultations with the Member States.

It has four aims:

- (1) to establish the single market in earth station equipment;
- (2) to implement harmonized procedures for certification, testing, marketing, quality assurance and product surveillance to guarantee conformity with the essential requirements enunciated in Directive 91/263/EEC;
- (3) to guarantee the right to use satellite earth communications station equipment which has been placed on the market legally;
- (4) to guarantee the right to connect satellite earth communications station equipment to the public telecommunications network.

**THE REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR AND THE NEED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THAT MARKET- COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

The Council agreed on the following Resolution:

"The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas both 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 (ONP), and Commission Directive 90/388/EEC of 28 June 1990 on competition in the markets for telecommunications services, call for a review during 1992 of the conditions under which the Telecommunications sector operates in the Community;

Whereas on 21 October 1992 the Commission submitted to the Council a communication on the situation in the market for telecommunications services, which assessed, in particular, the competitive situation, progress on harmonization and restrictions concerning access to telecommunications networks, the effects of those restrictions on the operation of the internal market, and the measures that could be taken to remove those restrictions; whereas the Commission asked the Member States and interested parties to give their opinions concerning the communication and the proposals contained in it;

Whereas on 15 July 1992 the Commission also submitted to the Council a communication entitled: "Towards Cost Orientation and the Adjustment of Pricing Structures", assessing progress towards cost orientation and adjustment of pricing structures for telecommunications within the Community;

Whereas the European Parliament gave its Opinion on both communications on 20 April 1993;

Whereas the Council Resolution of 17 December 1992 called 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; whereas the Council requested the Commission on the basis of the consultation to set out 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;

Whereas the Council established an Ad Hoc High Level Committee of National Regulators to assist the Commission in this task; whereas the Council Resolution of 17 December 1992 welcomed the Commission's intention to report to it before the next meeting of the Council of Telecommunications Ministers;

Whereas the Commission has carried out a wide-ranging consultation with all those involved in the European telecommunications industry and, in particular, has received the opinion of the users of telecommunications services, telecommunications operators, equipment manufacturers, service providers and the trade unions;

Whereas on the basis of this wide-ranging consultation the Commission has

submitted a further communication to the Council on the outcome of the consultation on the 1992 Telecommunications Services Review,

Notes as general consensus resulting from the consultation that :

1. there is a general acceptance that liberalization of telecommunications services markets is the inevitable result of technological and market developments;
2. there is a general requirement for maintaining the financial stability of the sector and safeguarding universal service, while proceeding with the necessary adjustment of tariff structures;
3. it is imperative to have a clear timetable for regulatory changes with defined milestones, in order to give the sector the necessary stability;
4. a realistic approach to further liberalization must be followed, taking into account the need for adjustment in peripheral regions with less developed networks ;
5. there is need for rapid and effective implementation of the current regulatory environment, in particular Directive 90/388/EEC;
6. there is general recognition of the value to users, industry and the whole of the European economy of a well-developed telecommunications infrastructure and of advanced and efficient telecommunications services;
7. the opening of the Community telecommunications market for third countries should be linked to comparable access to such countries' markets.

Recognizes as key factors in the development of future regulatory policy for telecommunications in the community:

1. the application of ONP measures, which constitute the basis for the definition of universal service and provide an appropriate framework for interconnection, the implementation of the principle of mutual recognition of national licences and authorizations based on harmonized conditions and with an interim solution based on one-stop-shopping procedure, as well as the development of the policy established in the Council Resolution of 19 December 1991 in respect of satellite communications, in particular the adoption of measures envisaged in that framework;
2. the importance, for the individual consumer, and for the competitiveness of Community industry and commercial users, of a Community telecommunications system offering to all users including specific social groups, reasonable and affordable charges for access and use, high quality of service and technological innovation;
3. the application, where appropriate, of access charge principles by national regulatory authorities, taking into account in particular the need for tariff rebalancing and the provision of universal service;
4. the independence of telecommunications organizations for the determination of their commercial policy, subject to appropriate regulation by national authorities and the need for telecommunications organizations to be able to meet the increasing competition in the global market;

- 5. the need to take into account the objectives of Community cohesion in the light of the specific circumstances of peripheral regions;
- 6. the impact of the development of trans-European networks in the field of telecommunications;
- 7. the need to take account of changes in the overall employment situation within as well as outside the telecommunications sector;
- 8. the definition of a coherent policy concerning telecommunications infrastructure;
- 9. the establishment of a fair international trade environment allowing access to third country telecommunications markets comparable to that existing in the Community;
- 10. the development of a clear and stable regulatory framework based on the principle of subsidiarity;
- 11. the importance of competition rules in the new regulatory environment, taking into account the need for co-operation inter alia for trans-European services, and the situation of operators in European and non-European telecommunications markets;
- 12. the continuing need for a harmonized and open market for telecommunications equipment, and the need for comparable and effective access to third countries.

Considers as major goals for the Community's telecommunications policy in the short term:

- 1. the adoption of legislative proposals in the field of ONP and satellites, together with rapid and effective implementation of existing Community legislation in the field of telecommunications services and ONP;
- 2. the application throughout the Community and where necessary the adaptation, in the light of further liberalization, of ONP principles in respect of the entities covered and of such issues as universal service, interconnection and access charges; as well as the consequent questions connected with licensing conditions;
- 3. the development of future Community policy in the field of mobile and personal communications to which the announced publication of a Green Paper on mobile communications will contribute;
- 4. the development of future Community policy in the field of telecommunications infrastructure and cable TV networks to which the announced publication of a Green Paper in this area will contribute;
- 5. the working out of arrangements for suitable measures in relation to specific difficulties encountered by the peripheral regions with less developed networks. Such measures, as a complement to national funding, should, where appropriate, and taking into account the priorities set at national level, make full use of appropriate Community support frameworks to assist network development and universal service in peripheral regions.
- 6. in the preparation of the steps to implement the goals of this Resolution the Commission will take account of the specific situation of small networks.

Commission will take account of the specific situation of small networks.

Considers as major goals for the Community's telecommunications policy in the longer term:

1. the liberalization of all public voice telephony services, whilst maintaining universal service;
2. ensuring the balance between liberalization and harmonization in an evolving market;
3. examination, prior to full liberalization of all public voice telephony services, of progress on structural adjustment, in particular of tariffs, in those countries experiencing specific difficulties, in order to take account of the situation of the peripheral regions with less developed networks and of very small networks, including the fixing of additional transition periods, where justified.
4. the working out of a future policy for telecommunications infrastructure, on the basis of the result of a broad consultation process following the publication of the Green Paper on infrastructure.

Invites the commission and the Member States

to continue consultation, in particular within the framework of the Ad Hoc High Level Committee of National Regulators referred to in the Council Resolution of 17 December 1992, with a view to the definition of a global and coherent framework for Community telecommunications policy, taking into account the regulatory changes foreseen by this Resolution and aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of European operators.

Urges the Member States

- (a) to promote the progressive rebalancing of tariffs towards cost-orientation together with the continuing development of universal service to all users at reasonable charges;
- (b) to provide for the necessary financial, organizational and management independence of telecommunications organizations, in order to allow them to prepare for the competitive environment.

Gives its support to the intention of the Commission

- (a) to publish before 1 January 1994 a Green Paper on mobile/personal communications,
- (b) to publish before 1 January 1995 a Green Paper on the future policy for telecommunications infrastructure and cable TV networks.
- (c) to prepare before 1 July 1996 the necessary amendments to the Community regulatory framework in order to achieve liberalization of all public voice telephony services by 1 January 1998. In order to allow Member States with less developed networks, i.e. Spain, Ireland, Greece and Portugal, to achieve the necessary structural adjustments in particular of tariffs, these Member States are granted an additional transition period of up to five years. The Council notes the intention of the

Commission to work closely with these Member States in order to achieve such adjustments as soon as possible and in the best possible way within the period. Very small networks can - where justified - have a period of up to two years.

Reaffirms

the necessity that conditions governing the liberalization of all public voice telephony services by 1 January 1998, as well as the definition of a future Community policy on infrastructure, should be the result of a political agreement building on the compromise of December 1989, and notes the Commission support for this approach.

Requests the Commission to report to the Council and the Parliament:

- (a) on the progress made with regard to the implementation and effects of the measures referred to in this Resolution before the end of 1994.
- (b) with preliminary reflections on a global and coherent framework for a Community telecommunications policy before the end of 1993."

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

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the communication which the Commission had recently forwarded to it on the consultations which it had held on the Green Paper on the development of the single market for postal services.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this matter to enable it possibly to adopt a Resolution at the next Telecommunications Council meeting under the Belgian Presidency.





**COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTES EUROPEENNES  
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

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Bruxelles, le 15 juin 1993

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Note BIO(93)160 AUX BUREAUX NATIONALS  
cc: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Préparation Conseil Télécommunications, 16 juin 1993, Luxembourg  
(Helmut Schmitt von Sydow)

Le point principal concerne les services de télévision avancée en Europe pour savoir si le RU peut se rallier aux onze autres délégations et approuver un Plan d'Action relatif à l'introduction de grands écrans du format 16 à 9.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil est appelé à adopter une position commune relative aux équipements de stations terrestres de communications par satellite. Certaines délégations souhaitent d'abord avoir une vue plus claire en ce qui concerne l'ensemble de la législation communautaire envisagée dans le domaine des satellites.

En plus, le Conseil aura un débat approfondi sur la révision de la situation du secteur des services de télécommunications et sur le développement du marché unique des services postaux. A ce propos, M. Bangemann avait présenté deux communications de la Commission lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil, le 10 mai 1993.

Sur demande de la délégation néerlandaise, la Commission fera le point de ses travaux concernant les réseaux transeuropéens de télécommunication.

Amitiés,

Bruno Dethomas

Bruxelles, le 17 juin 1993

**Note BIO(93) 160(suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
cc: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

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**Conseil Télécommunications, 16 juin 1993, Luxembourg  
(Helmut Schmitt von Sydow)**

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Le Conseil a pris trois décisions importantes dont deux constituent de véritables percées compte tenu des débats laborieux antérieurs. Dans tous les deux cas, une suggestion originale de M. Bangemann a permis de trancher le noeud gordien.

**Services de télévision avancée (IP(93) 495)**

Le Conseil s'est mis d'accord sur un Plan d'Action prévoyant 405 mio ECU sur quatre ans pour lancer le nouveau format de 16:9 pour les écrans de télévision. Cette somme constitue la masse critique qui est nécessaire pour amener un nombre suffisant de producteurs et transmetteurs de programmes à convertir leurs installations au nouveau format. Si elle est inférieure aux sommes initialement envisagées (850 mio ECU en mai 1992 et 500 mio en décembre 1992) c'est que le Programme d'Action se concentre désormais sur le format et ne s'occupe pas ni de la norme de transmission (analogique ou digital) ni de la forme de transmission (terrestre, câble, satellite).

- 70 % (= 320 mio) du total sera disponible aux opérateurs qui sont dès à présent capables de reconvertis leurs installations.  
50 % (= 160 mio) de cette somme sera financée par la Communauté, l'autre moitié doit provenir d'autres sources et notamment de sources privées.
- 30 % (= 85 mio) sont réservés aux pays dont le marché est moins développé et qui ne sont pas en mesure de profiter dès le début du Programme. Pour ces marchés, l'intervention de la Communauté couvre 80 % (= 68 mio) tandis que 20 % (= 17 mio) proviendront des autres sources.
- Le total de 405 mio se compose donc de 160 + 68 = 228 mio à charge du budget communautaire et de 160 + 17 = 177 mio provenant d'autres sources.

Cette somme avait déjà été proposée par M. Bangemann lors du dernier Conseil du 10 mai 1993. Toutefois, le Conseil n'avait pas pu statuer à cause de l'absence du ministre britannique; ce ministre a été remplacé entretemps.

**Secteur des services de télécommunication**

Le Conseil a décidé que les services de téléphonie vocale doivent être libéralisées avant le 1 Janvier 1998. Toutefois, ES, IRL, POR et GR disposent d'une période supplémentaire de 5 ans; de même, les réseaux très petits peuvent obtenir, si justifié, un délai de 2 ans.

M. Bangemann a vivement souligné l'intérêt des pays retardataires de libéraliser le plus vite possible. En effet, la qualité du réseau de télécommunications est un facteur déterminant pour les entrepreneurs lors de leurs choix d'investissements. Les pays périphériques qui disposent d'un réseau moins développé, au lieu de diminuer leur retard économique, risquent donc de l'augmenter s'ils reportent la libéralisation. Dans la même perspective, M. Van Miert a démontré que libéralisation et service universel ne sont pas en contradiction. Au contraire, si en 1984, au début de la libéralisation au Royaume-Uni, la pénétration aux foyers n'était que de 78 %, ce taux a atteint 90 % en 1991.

#### **Stations terrestres de communication par satellite (IP(93) 494)**

Le Conseil s'est mis d'accord sur une Position commune concernant la proposition de la Commission. Cette directive vise le premier d'une série de quatre objectifs décrits dans le Livre vert de 1990 pour une approche commune dans le domaine des communications par satellites, à savoir l'harmonisation et la libéralisation des stations terrestres. Elle est d'autant plus importante que les marchés nationaux en Europe sont fortement cloisonnés par comparaison au marché américain, et que les satellites peuvent efficacement aider les pays de l'Europe centrale et orientale à établir rapidement des réseaux de communications adéquats.

#### **Services postaux**

Le Conseil a procédé à un premier tour de table.

#### **Réseaux transeuropéens**

La Commission a fait l'état des travaux. La proposition relative au réseau d'échange d'information entre les administrations (TNA - IDA) est sur la table du Conseil. La Commission présentera des propositions concernant le réseau numérique à intégration de services (RNIS) en juin 1993 et le réseau intégré à large bande (IBC) fin 1994.

Amités,

Bruno Dethomas

Bruxelles, le 15 juin 1993

Note BIO(93)160 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
cc: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

433

Préparation Conseil Télécommunications, 16 Juin 1993, Luxembourg  
(Helmut Schmitt von Sydow)

Le point principal concerne les services de télévision avancée en Europe pour savoir si le RU peut se rallier aux onze autres délégations et approuver un Plan d'Action relatif à l'introduction de grands écrans du format 16 à 9.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil est appelé à adopter une position commune relative aux équipements de stations terrestres de communications par satellite. Certaines délégations souhaitent d'abord avoir une vue plus claire en ce qui concerne l'ensemble de la législation communautaire envisagée dans le domaine des satellites.

En plus, le Conseil aura un débat approfondi sur la révision de la situation du secteur des services de télécommunications et sur le développement du marché unique des services postaux. A ce propos, M. Bangemann avait présenté deux communications de la Commission lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil, le 10 mai 1993.

Sur demande de la délégation néerlandaise, la Commission fera le point de ses travaux concernant les réseaux transeuropéens de télécommunication.

Amitiés,



Bruno Dethomas



Ref: BIO/93/160/1

TELECOMMUNICATION COUNCIL OF 16 JUNE 1993

Le Conseil a pris trois decisions importantes dont deux constituent de veritables perrees compte tenu des debats laborieux anterieurs. Dans tous les deux cas, une suggestion originale de M. Bangemann a permis de trancher le noeud gordien.

Services de television avancee (IP(93) 495)

Le Conseil s'est mis d'accord sur un Plan d'Action prevoyant 405 mio ECU sur quatre ans pour lancer le nouveau format de 16:9 pour les ecrans de television. Cette somme constitue la masse critique qui est necessaire pour amener un nombre suffisant de producteurs et transmetteurs de programmes a convertir leurs installations au nouveau format. Si elle est inferieure aux sommes initialement envisagees (850 mio ECU en mai 1992 et 500 mio en decembre 1992) c'est que le Programme d'Action se concentre desormais sur le format et ne s'occupe pas ni de la norme de transmission (anologue ou digital) ni de la forme de transmission (terrestre, cable, satellite).

- 70 % (= 320 mio) du total sera disponible aux operateurs qui sont des a present capables de reconvertir leurs installations.
- 50 % (= 160 mio) de cette somme sera financee par la Communaute, l'autre moitie doit provenir d'autres sources et notamment de sources privees.
- 30 % (= 85 mio) sont reserves aux pays dont le marche est moins developpe et qui ne sont pas en mesure de profiter des le debut du Programme. Pour ces marches, l'intervention de la Communaute couvre 80 % (= 68 mio) tandis que 20 % (= 17 mio) proviendront des autres sources.
- Le total de 405 mio se compose donc de 160 + 68 = 228 mio a charge du budget communautaire et de 160 + 17 = 177 mio provenant d'autres sources.

Cette somme avait deja ete proposee par M. Bangemann lors du dernier Conseil du 10 mai 1993. Toutefois, le Conseil n'avait pas pu statuer a cause de l'absence du ministre britannique; ce ministre a ete remplace entretemps.

Secteur des services de telecommunication

Le Conseil a decide que les services de telephonie vocale doivent etre liberalisees avant le 1 janvier 1998. Toutefois, ES, IRL, POR et GR disposent d'une periode supplementaire de 5 ans; de meme, les reseaux tres petits peuvent obtenir, si justifie, un delai de 2 ans.

M. Bangemann a vivement souligne l'interet des pays retardataires de liberaliser le plus vite possible. En effet, la qualite du reseau de



telecommunications est un facteur determinant pour les entrepreneurs lors de leurs choix d'investissements. Les pays peripheriques qui disposent d'un reseau moins developpe, au lieu de diminuer leur retard economique, risquent donc de l'augmenter s'ils reportent la liberalisation. Dans la meme perspective, M. Van Miert a demonstre que liberalisation et service universel ne sont pas en contradiction. Au contraire, si en 1984, au debut de la liberalisation au Royaume-Uni, la penetration aux foyers n'etait que de 78 %, ce taux a atteint 90 % en 1991.

#### **Stations terrestres de communication par satellite (IP(93) 494)**

Le Conseil s'est mis d'accord sur une Position commune concernant la proposition de la Commission. Cette directive vise le premier d'une serie de quatre objectifs decrits dans le Livre vert de 1990 pour une approche commune dans le domaine des communications par satellites, a savoir l'harmonisation et la liberalisation des stations terrestres. Elle est d'autant plus importante que les marches nationaux en Europe sont fortement cloisonnes par comparaison au marche americain, et que les satellites peuvent efficacement aider les pays de l'Europe centrale et orientale a etablir rapidement des reseaux de communications adequats.

#### **Services postaux**

Le Conseil a procede a un premier tour de table.

#### **Reseaux transeuropeens**

La Commission a fait l'état des travaux. La proposition relative au reseau d'échange d'information entre les administrations (TNA - IDA) est sur la table du Conseil. La Commission presentera des propositions concernant le reseau numerique à intégration de services (RNIS) en juin 1993 et le reseau intégré à large bande (IBC) fin 1994.

