

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1528th Council meeting

- TELECOMMUNICATIONS -

Brussels, 4 November 1991

President: Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport
and Public Works
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium

Mr Marcel COLLA
Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications

Denmark

Mr Torben RECHENDORFF
Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs and
Communications

Germany

Mr Christian SCHWARZ-SCHILLING
Federal Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications

Greece

Mr Jean CORANTIS
Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain

Mr José BORRELL
Minister for Transport, Tourism and
Communications

France

Mr Jean-Marie RAUSCH
Minister, Ministry of Posts and
Telecommunications

Ireland

Mr Bernard McDONAGH
State Secretary at the
Ministry of Communications

Italy

Mr Francesco TEMPESTINI
State Secretary at the
Ministry of Posts and
Telecommunications

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Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications

Netherlands

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal

Mr Vasco VALENTE

Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom

Mr John REDWOOD

Minister of State, Department of Trade
and Industry (Minister for Corporate
Affairs)

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Commission

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Mr M. Jean DONDELINGER

Vice-President
Member

APPLICATION OF OPEN NETWORK PROVISION TO LEASED LINES

The Council adopted a common position on the substance of a draft Directive on the application of open network provision to leased lines.

The common position will be formally adopted after legal and linguistic finalization of the texts.

The purpose of the Directive is to ensure non-discriminatory and efficient access by users to public telecommunications networks and services in the provision of leased lines, implementing the general principles harmonized by framework Directive 90/338/EEC on Open Network Provision (ONP).

The common position lays down the open network provision conditions for leased lines, and specifies the nature of the leased lines which are to be provided in the Member States according to harmonized arrangements.

Harmonization also extends to conditions of use, tariffing principles, ordering procedures, control by national authorities and conciliation procedures in the event of any dispute between the user and the supplier of leased lines.

Leased lines are an essential element of public telecommunications infrastructure. They form one of the principal elements of telecommunications networks operated by undertakings for their own requirements or to provide services to third parties, in particular added-value or competing services.

STANDARDS FOR SATELLITE BROADCASTING OF TELEVISION SIGNALS

The Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the adoption of standards for satellite broadcasting of television signals.

This new Directive is to replace Directive 86/529/EEC of 3 November 1986 which expires on 31 December 1991 and which lays down the obligation to use the MAC/Packet system for broadcasts transmitted from high-power satellites (BSS satellites).

At the end of the discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examination of the Directive, in particular in the light of the Opinion of the European Parliament expected in November 1991, with a view to reaching an agreement at a further ministerial meeting to be held before the end of the year.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT

The Council recorded its agreement on the following Resolution on the development of the common market for satellite communications services and equipment.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Green Paper on the development of the Common Market for telecommunications services and equipment,

Having regard to the Green Paper on a common approach in the field of satellite communications in the European Community,

Having regard to the Opinions of the telecommunications and broadcasting sector, telecommunications and space industry, the trade unions and in particular the users and service providers,

Whereas the Green Paper on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment and the subsequent implementation action plan single out as a priority the working out of a coherent European position regarding the future regulation and development of satellite communications in the European Community;

Whereas the Council Resolution of 30 June 1988 on the development of the Common market for telecommunications services and equipment considers as a policy goal in telecommunications the "working out of a common position on satellite communications, so that this new information 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 existing international commitments of the Member States";

Whereas, subsequently, a number of Directives, Recommendations, Resolutions and Decisions have been adopted to devise and implement a European telecommunications policy, the principles of which should be extended to the fields of satellite communications;

Whereas the Community must adopt measures with the aim of progressively establishing the internal market, over a period expiring on 31 December 1992; whereas, to this end, the present Resolution defines an action plan for the progressive achievement of a competition-oriented Community-wide satellite communications market and the strengthening of European competitiveness in this field;

Whereas the social, regional and trade aspects must be kept carefully in mind during the progressive implementation of such a plan, namely by taking into account the need for transitional periods with respect to liberalization policies in certain Member States, where they are justified by the level of development of their terrestrial networks;

Whereas the industrial aspects must be kept carefully in mind, including the need for an internationally competitive European industry in the field of satellite communications,

Whereas the access to space segment capacity of separate satellite systems should

be left to the providers of that capacity,

WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO FUTURE DECISIONS, CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS MAJOR GOALS IN SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY:

1. Harmonization and liberalization for appropriate satellite earth stations, including where applicable the abolition of exclusive or special rights in this area, subject in particular to conditions necessary for compliance with essential requirements;
2. Harmonization and liberalization as far as required to facilitate the provision and use of Europe-wide satellite telecommunications services, subject, where applicable, to conditions necessary for compliance with essential requirements and special or exclusive rights;
3. Separation in all Member States of regulatory and operational functions in the field of satellite communications.
4. Improved access to the space segment covering as well access to the space capacity of intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems and effective and accelerated procedures for the establishment of and access to separate satellite systems;

THEREFORE GIVES ITS SUPPORT:

to the general goals of the Commission's Green Paper on a common approach in the field of satellite communications in the European Community.

NOTES WITH INTEREST THE INTENTION OF THE COMMISSION:

1. to propose where required, the measures necessary to achieve these goals set out under 1 to 3 above, in particular for the creation of a competitive common market for satellite telecommunications services and equipment and taking account of the different situations of national terrestrial networks and also of the existing international commitments of Member States and the necessity of international co-operation in this field as well as of the external dimension of these measures.

These should include measures on the basis of the appropriate Community procedures:

- (a) for the extension of the principles concerning competition in the markets

for telecommunications terminal equipment and telecommunications services to aspects of trade and use of the appropriate satellite earth stations before 1 January 1993;

- (b) for the approximation of the laws in the Member States concerning appropriate satellite earth stations including the mutual recognition of their conformity in line with the principles already established for telecommunications terminal equipment, before 1 January 1993;
 - (c) for the establishment of a harmonized regulatory framework for the licensing of satellite networks and satellite services, before 1 January 1993;
 - (d) for strengthened co-operation with CEPT following the principles of the Council Resolution of 28 June 1990 with respect to the frequency aspects of the provision of satellite services in the Community;
 - (e) to ensure the free circulation and facilitate transborder use of mobile and transportable satellite earth stations throughout the Community, before 1 January 1993;
2. to analyse the effects of the abovementioned measures on the European satellite communications industry and to make proposals, as required, with the aim of establishing competitiveness with regard to third countries, in particular in the following areas:
- relations with third countries;
 - standards processes;
 - research programmes;
3. to report periodically on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the abovementioned measures.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to work as quickly as possible towards

- 1. the development of effective, non-discriminatory and accelerated procedures for the establishment of separate satellite systems;
- 2. the improvement and broadening of access to the space segments of intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems, taking account of the special or exclusive rights for the provision of public telecommunications services and working along the following lines of action:
 - active participation of the Member States within the intergovernmental organizations operating satellite systems to work towards that

- goal;
- the development of effective procedures e.g. along the line of Signatories Affairs Offices as an initial step;
 - elaboration of conditions for fair, non-discriminatory and transparent access to space capacity for earth segment operators.

COMMON INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE ACCESS CODE

The Council reached a consensus on the principles of a draft decision on a common international telephone access code in the Community, paving the way for the adoption of the Decision before long, once the Opinion of the European Parliament has been delivered.

The draft provides that the Member States must introduce the code "00" ⁽¹⁾ in public telephone networks as a common dialling code for access to the international service, by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

However, Member States faced with particular technical, financial or organizational difficulties may defer adoption of the common access code until 31 December 1998.

Special arrangements concerning telephone calls between neighbouring localities on different sides of a border between Member States may be made or maintained.

(1) At present, there are seven different codes for access to the international telephone network, viz. "00" (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Luxembourg), "009" (Denmark), "07" (Spain), "19" (France), "010" (United Kingdom), "16" (Ireland) and "09" (Netherlands).

Bruxelles, le 31 octobre 1991

NOTE BIO(91) 347 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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PREPARATION DU CONSEIL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DU 4 NOVEMBRE 1991
(Viviane d'Udekem)

Le Conseil se réunira à Bruxelles. Il entamera ses travaux à partir de 10h sous la présidence de Madame Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN, Ministre néerlandais des Transports et des Travaux Publics. La Commission sera représentée par le Vice-Président Filippo Maria PANDOLFI.

Deux points figurant à l'ordre du jour pourraient faire l'objet de décisions :

1. ONP-Lignes louées

Les Douze pourraient adopter une position commune sur la proposition de directive relative à l'application de la fourniture d'un réseau ouvert aux lignes louées (voir note P(91) 9).

Première mise en application de la directive-cadre ONP (Open Network Provision) adoptée par le Conseil le 28 Juin 1990, cette directive vise à faciliter l'accès aux lignes louées fournies par les réseaux publics de télécommunications, et par-là la fourniture à l'échelle européenne de services à valeur ajoutée (notamment accès en ligne à des bases de données, messagerie électronique,...) et l'établissement de réseaux d'entreprises.

2. Communications par satellites

Le Conseil pourrait adopter une résolution sur le "développement du marché commun pour des services et de l'équipement de communication par satellite d'ici 1992 (voir note P(90) 85).

Pour mémoire, rappelons que la Commission avait adopté en novembre 1990 un Livre Vert sur les communications par satellites. L'objectif de celui-ci était de voir comment favoriser, à la suite des progrès technologiques considérables de ces dernières années, le développement d'un environnement réglementaire approprié pour les communications par satellites en se basant sur l'acquis communautaire dans le domaine des télécommunications, et, à cette fin, de susciter un débat au sein des instances communautaires et des milieux professionnels concernés. La résolution du Conseil ferait suite à la clôture de cette phase de consultations.

Deux autres points figurent à l'ordre du jour. Sur ceux-ci, le Conseil ne prendra pas de décision, le Parlement européen n'ayant pas encore rendu d'avis à leur égard. Il s'agit plus précisément de :

- un débat d'orientation sur la proposition de directive relative à l'adoption de normes pour la diffusion par satellite de signaux de télévision (voir note P(91) 42)
- une information de la Présidence sur l'état de la proposition de décision visant à l'adoption du code "00" comme code d'accès ou réseau téléphonique international dans la Communauté (voir note IP(91) 432)

Enfin, la Commission fera le point sur l'état d'avancement du Livre Vert sur les services postaux, actuellement en préparation dans les services de la Commission.

Amitiés.



C. STATHOPOULOS

Bruxelles, le 4 novembre 1991

NOTE BIO(91) 347 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DU 4 NOVEMBRE 1991
(Viviane d'Udekem)

1. ONP - LIGNES LOUEES

Une position commune a été adoptée par les Douze sur la proposition de directive relative à l'application de la fourniture d'un réseau ouvert aux lignes louées.

Rappelons que les lignes louées sont exploitées aujourd'hui par les compagnies non seulement pour leur propre usage mais qu'elle constituent également l'infrastructure principale pour la fourniture de services à valeur ajoutée (messagerie électronique, transfert électronique de fonds, ...) à d'autres sociétés ou organisations.

Le développement de services paneuropéens basés sur les lignes louées a jusqu'ici été gêné par l'absence d'interfaces standardisées, par des divergences dans les conditions d'usage et d'offre ainsi que par des principes tarifaires disparates.

La proposition de directive vise à garantir un accès ouvert et harmonisé aux lignes louées des réseaux publics de télécommunications pour faire face à cette situation. Elle offre en outre la possibilité de disposer d'un ensemble standard de quatre types de lignes louées à travers toute la Communauté.

La directive aura donc un impact direct sur le marché des services à valeur ajoutée largement basé sur les lignes louées. Ce marché représentait 2 milliards d'Ecus en 1989 et devrait atteindre 5 milliards d'Ecus en 1992.

2. LIVRE VERT SUR LES COMMUNICATIONS PAR SATELLITE

Le Conseil a adopté une résolution sur le développement du marché commun des services et équipements de communications par satellites.

Celle-ci doit être analysée, selon les termes de la Présidence néerlandaise, comme un appui à l'"approche globale" du Livre Vert et constitue, aux yeux du Vice-Président PANDOLFI, un encouragement et une invitation à la présentation par la Commission de propositions concrètes de mise en oeuvre du Livre Vert.

C'est sur ces propositions, qui seront sur la table dès le début de 1992, que les Douze auront une discussion approfondie et détaillée.

3. "00" - PREFIXE COMMUN D'ACCES AU RESEAU TELEPHONIQUE PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL

Cette proposition a été accueillie très favorablement par les Douze. Dans l'attente de l'avis du Parlement européen, la proposition n'a, à ce stade, pas fait l'objet d'une adoption formelle. Toutefois, sauf amendements du Parlement, la proposition sera adoptée, après l'avis de celui-ci, comme point A lors d'un prochain Conseil.

4. LIVRE VERT SUR LES SERVICES POSTAUX

Le Vice-Président PANDOLFI a informé le Conseil de son intention de voir le Livre Vert adopté par la Commission dans les toutes prochaines semaines.

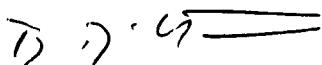
5. TVHD : NORMES POUR LA DIFFUSION PAR SATELLITE DE SIGNAUX DE TELEVISION

Les Douze ont eu sur ce dossier une discussion constructive. Plusieurs délégations ont souligné l'importance du lien existant entre la directive, le Memorandum of Understanding et le soutien financier communautaire.

Le Vice-Président PANDOLFI a fait savoir que, dans le respect de la procédure de coopération établie par le traité, c'est à la lumière de l'avis en première lecture du Parlement européen (prévu pour la session plénière du mois de novembre 1991) que la Commission procédera à une modification de la proposition de directive qu'elle a mise sur la table.

La Présidence a annoncé son intention d'organiser le 5 décembre 1991 un Conseil Télécommunications dont l'agenda sera presque exclusivement consacré à ce dossier, l'objectif étant d'y dégager une position commune sur la proposition de directive.

Amitiés.



B. DETHOMAS