

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2007/2153(INI)

20.9.2007

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on Cultural industries in Europe
(2007/2153(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Attributes great importance to the amended proposal for the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 89/552/EEC on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities ("Audiovisual media services without frontiers Directive")¹ and calls on the Member States to ensure its timely transposition as well as on the Commission to provide the European Parliament with information on the implementation of that directive;
2. Emphasises the importance of a far-reaching high-speed broadband, of lower frequency mobile communications and of new wireless technologies in providing efficient solutions to achieving universal coverage of the 27 Member States and disseminating cultural content; furthermore, calls on the Member States to give priority to the development of broadband network in rural and peripheral areas in order to overcome the digital divide;
3. Reiterates the huge potential of digital switchover in terms of the advantages of innovative services provided via digital broadcasting; calls for a regulatory framework which would provide greater flexibility to use the spectrum;
4. Is of the opinion that a robust protection of intellectual property rights is vital for promoting creativity and encouraging the development of cultural content; however, also recognizes that the interests of intellectual property right holders have to be seen in context and, in particular, the interests of the consumers have to be taken into account;
5. Calls on the internet service providers to cooperate in the fight against internet piracy and enforce their contractual terms and conditions or terminate contracts with subscribers who infringe intellectual property rights. Internet service providers should apply filtering measures to prevent copyright and stop existing infringements;
6. Reiterates the importance of, and calls for the maximisation of the use of, the European Investment Bank's i2i objectives; encourages the Commission and the Member States to explore further ways of providing financial assistance for the start-up and growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in the cultural and creative sectors; encourages the use of the Structural Funds to support traditional art and heritage sectors and cultural industries; calls on the Commission to monitor these activities and help the dissemination of best practices.

¹ COM(2007)0170.