



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Culture and Education

2011/0299(COD)

30.5.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC (COM(2011)0657 – C7-0373/2011 – 2011/0299(COD))

Rapporteur: Lorenzo Fontana

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

This regulation on guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks forms part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The regulation provides a framework for developing broadband networks in line with the targets set for the Digital Agenda for Europe flagship initiative and lays down relevant objectives and priorities for this purpose.

This flagship initiative sets some rightly ambitious targets for the EU in the field of digital infrastructures. The aim is to provide universal coverage at 30Mbps or to ensure that at least 50% of European households are subscribing to speeds of above 100Mbps by 2020.

These plans, as set out in the section entitled 'Purpose of the proposal' will help to boost our economy and to improve the competitiveness of European businesses, which include a very large number of SMEs.

Fast and ultra-fast broadband will give to our businesses and public administrations a tangible advantage over their counterparts in the new emerging global powers. If Europe is to go about meeting the challenges of becoming a leader in the application of cutting-edge technologies and to do so properly and systematically, then Member States must coordinate their efforts in the development of broadband networks.

However, in order to achieve real and meaningful results, it is essential to recognise the importance of culture as a vehicle for development in the EU.

Culture, starting with basic education and going right through to high-level scientific research, is the cornerstone of all development processes. Investment in this area must be in keeping with the Europe 2020 targets to ensure that the major advances expected in the field of research and innovation are mirrored by equivalent advances in European society as a whole. Any failure to take the role of culture seriously would be extremely damaging and would be a severe brake on progress within the EU.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) Telecommunications networks and

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services are increasingly becoming internet-based infrastructures, with broadband networks and digital services closely interrelated. The internet is becoming the dominant platform for communication, services, and doing business. Therefore, the trans-European availability of fast Internet access and digital services in the public interest is essential for economic growth and the Single Market.

services are increasingly becoming internet-based infrastructures, with broadband networks and digital services closely interrelated. The internet is becoming the dominant platform for communication, ***the promotion and dissemination of culture***, services, and doing business. Therefore, the trans-European availability of fast Internet access and digital services in the public interest is essential for economic growth and the Single Market.

Or. it

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Special attention should be paid to the possibility of market distortions being caused by public authorities. In particular, in view of this issue's importance and the sector's enormous funding requirements, the EU should be careful to avoid the use of State aids.

Or. it

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12) By opening business *opportunities*, the deployment of broadband networks and digital service infrastructures will stimulate job creation in the Union. Construction of broadband networks will also have an

(12) By opening business *opportunities*, the deployment of broadband networks and digital service infrastructures will stimulate job creation in the Union. Construction of broadband networks will also have an

immediate effect on employment in particular in civil engineering sector.

immediate effect on employment, in particular in the civil engineering sector, *especially for young engineers.*

Or. it

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) Increasing and preserving access to Europe's rich and diverse cultural content and data held by public sector bodies, and opening them up for reuse in full respect of copyright and related rights, will nurture creativity and spur innovation and entrepreneurship. Unhampered access to re-usable multilingual resources will help overcome language barriers, which undermine the internal market for online services and limit access to knowledge.

Amendment

(18) Increasing and preserving access to Europe's rich and diverse cultural content and data held by public sector bodies, and opening them up for reuse in full respect of copyright and related rights, will nurture creativity and spur innovation and entrepreneurship. Unhampered access to re-usable multilingual resources will help overcome language barriers, which undermine the internal market for online services and limit access to knowledge. ***In this connection, the importance of the Europeana platform as a basis for sharing content from Europe's vast cultural heritage must be emphasised.***

Or. it

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) contribute to economic growth and support the development of the Single Market resulting in the improvement of the competitiveness of the European economy, including small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Amendment

(1) contribute to economic, ***cultural and social*** growth and support the development of the Single Market resulting in the improvement of the competitiveness of the European economy, ***especially*** small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Or. it

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) facilitate sustainable deployment of trans-European digital service infrastructures, their interoperability and coordination at European level, their operation, maintenance and upgrading.

Amendment

(4) facilitate sustainable deployment of trans-European digital service infrastructures, their interoperability and coordination at European level, their operation, maintenance and upgrading, ***based on a culture-oriented approach and environmental sustainability.***

Or. it

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) the inclusion, by the means of the allocation of appropriate specific funding, of the EU's upland regions, including, for example, the Alpine region;

Or. it

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Annex – section 2 – paragraph 14

Text proposed by the Commission

In addition, high speed connections to public internet access points, notably in public facilities, such as schools, hospitals,

Amendment

In addition, high speed connections to public internet access points, notably in public facilities, such as schools,

local government offices and libraries,
shall also be supported.

universities, research centres, hospitals,
local government offices and libraries,
shall also be supported.

Or. it