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Committee on Regional Development

2011/0299(COD)

17.9.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

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: Ramona Nicole Mănescu

PA_Legam

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development 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 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) Member States are called upon to use also the structural funds in order to reach the objectives of the Digital Agenda while ensuring the synergies between the framework programme, structural funds and national policies in relation to the broader EU objectives of competitiveness, economic growth and cohesion;

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Priorities as high-speed networks, cross-border public services, access to multilingual services, safety, security and smart energy services are all specific fields in which local and regional authorities are simultaneously key actors, providers and beneficiaries;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) The list of the eligible projects to be financed by CEF shall be flexible in order to take into account the particularities faced by the EU as a whole but mostly by the member states, especially on broadband infrastructure projects;

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 6 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6b) The implementation of the CEF should not be detrimental to the cohesion policy objectives. When implementing the proposed measures Member States should take the necessary measures in order to avoid more administrative burden at national level and also to provide to local and regional authorities the technical assistance needed on the use of the new financial instruments and their leverage effect;

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 - paragraph 1 - point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) contribute to improvements in daily life

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for citizens, businesses and governments through the promotion of the interconnection and interoperability of national telecommunication networks as well as access to such networks.

for citizens, businesses and governments through the promotion of the interconnection and interoperability of national telecommunication networks as well as access to such networks, ***enabling local and regional authorities to implement the most appropriate solutions for their specific local and regional needs.***

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 - paragraph 1 - point 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) Close the gap between regions recalling the fast and reliable communication links, complemented by efficient wireless mobile services play a key role in promoting regional competitiveness, accessibility and equality between people.

Or. en

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 - paragraph 1 - point 5 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5b) In order to achieve these objectives member states must ensure consultations with local and regional authorities engaged in the process on every relevant stage of the process.

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 - paragraph 1 - point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) the deployment of ultra fast broadband networks ensuring the speed of data transmission of 100 Mbps and above;

Amendment

(a) the deployment of ultra fast broadband networks ensuring the speed of data transmission of 100 Mbps and above, ***taking into account the demand for ultra-fast Internet;***

Or. en

Justification

Investing in ultra-fast broadband networks is a high-risk area. Statistical data show that high-speed Internet usage substantially lags behind actual broadband coverage. The choice of technology and projects to be financed should therefore take into account the actual demand for broadband access

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 - paragraph 1 - point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the deployment of broadband networks to link island, landlocked and peripheral regions with the central regions of the Union ensuring in those regions that speeds of data transmission are sufficient to permit broadband connectivity of 30 Mbps and above;

Amendment

(b) the deployment of broadband networks to link island, landlocked and peripheral regions with the central regions of the Union ensuring in those regions that speeds of data transmission are sufficient to permit broadband connectivity of 30 Mbps and above, ***taking into account the demand for ultra-fast Internet;***

Or. en

Justification

Investing in ultra-fast broadband networks is a high-risk area. Statistical data show that high-speed Internet usage substantially lags behind actual broadband coverage. The choice of technology and projects to be financed should therefore take into account the actual demand for broadband access

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 - paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Member States and/or other entities in charge of the implementation of projects of common interest or contributing to their implementation shall take the necessary legal, administrative, technical and financial measures in compliance with the corresponding specifications of this Regulation.

Amendment

3. Member States and/or other entities, ***including local and regional authorities,*** in charge of the implementation of projects of common interest or contributing to their implementation shall take the necessary legal, administrative, technical and financial measures in compliance with the corresponding specifications of this Regulation.

Or. en

Justification

Mentioning LRAs would be useful from same reason as stated above.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 - paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Member states should take the necessary measures to ensure that local and regional authorities are fully and effectively involved in the governance of ICT-related initiatives as a means of improving their services in fields such as healthcare, education, public procurement, security and social services;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 - paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3b. Commission and the member states shall encourage and support local and regional authorities to use the public-private partnership (PPP) to provide broadband services especially in rural areas. In this regard, it is crucial for the member states to consolidate their public institutions administrative capacity at local, regional and national level and to upgrade their infrastructure accordingly in order to ensure a successful development and implementation of trans-European telecommunications networks;

Or. en

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 - paragraph 3 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3c. A deeper involvement of the local and regional authorities is needed in order to significantly contribute to promoting public sector information re-use and consequently increasing competitiveness and creating new jobs;

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 - paragraph 7 - point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) inclusion of rural and low-density areas as well as outermost regions.

Or. en

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 - paragraph 8 - point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) demonstrates European added value.

(c) demonstrates European added value, ***as a result of feasibility and cost-benefit assessment.***

Or. en

Justification

A feasibility assessment would be the best instrument to demonstrate the added value

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 - paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. On the basis of information received under Article 21 of the Regulation XXX establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, Member States and the Commission shall exchange information about the progress made with the implementation of these guidelines.

1. On the basis of information received under Article 21 of the Regulation XXX establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, Member States and the Commission shall exchange information ***and best practices*** about the progress made with the implementation of these guidelines. ***Member States shall involve***

local regional authorities in this process.

Or. en

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 - paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall be assisted by an Expert Group, composed of a representative of each Member State, for monitoring of the implementation of these guidelines, assisting in the planning through the national strategies for high speed internet and mapping of infrastructures, and exchanging information. The Expert Group may also consider any other issue relating to the development of the trans-European telecommunication networks.

Amendment

2. The Commission shall be assisted by an Expert Group, composed of a representative of each Member State, ***one representative from a regional and one from a local government***, for monitoring of the implementation of these guidelines, assisting in the planning through the national strategies for high speed internet and mapping of infrastructures, and exchanging information. The Expert Group may also consider any other issue relating to the development of the trans-European telecommunication networks.

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 - paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. In these reports the Commission shall also evaluate whether the scope of the projects of common interest continues to reflect political priorities, technological developments ***or*** the situation in the relevant markets. For major projects, these reports shall include an analysis of the environmental impact, taking into account climate change adaptation and mitigation needs, and disaster resilience. Such a

Amendment

4. In these reports the Commission shall also evaluate whether the scope of the projects of common interest continues to reflect political priorities, technological developments ***and the feasibility of the project, given*** the situation in the relevant markets. For major projects, these reports shall include an analysis of the environmental impact, taking into account climate change adaptation and mitigation

review may also be carried out at any other time when it is deemed appropriate.

needs, and disaster resilience. Such a review may also be carried out at any other time when it is deemed appropriate.

Or. en