Communication from the European Commission

to the Council,
the European Parliament,
the Economic and Social Committee,
and the Committee of the Regions
on

"Europe at the Forefront of the Global Information Society: Rolling Action Plan"

CONTENTS:

I.   INTRODUCTION

The information society is not a challenge for the future but one for the present. Decision makers are now fully aware that Europe's future in the global economy will be shaped by the speed and success with which it exploits the opportunities arising from the new information and communication technologies (ICT).

Momentum towards the information society is already building up in Europe at a breath-taking pace. But major tasks are still ahead of us. The key challenges are to ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of the new global and networked society and that European citizens equally enjoy its benefits. The EU must **therefore focus on an effective implementation of all aspects of the information society**.

Considerable progress has already been achieved since the adoption in July 1994 of an Action Plan[1] defining a comprehensive strategy and a set of measures aimed at taking the European Union into the information society:

✓ The liberalisation of the telecommunications sector has been successfully launched and will be completed by the 1st of January 1998, hence triggering the development of new services and promoting their widespread uptake. The stakes in terms of job creation and competitiveness are particularly high since the ICT market had an astonishing growth rate of 8% in 1995 and is bound to grow even faster in the future.

✓ Considerable effort has been devoted to ensuring that the social and societal dimension of the information society is fully taken into consideration and to supporting regional information society initiatives in order to enhance cohesion.

✓ The recognition of the vital role of education and training in the race towards the increased participation and employability of European citizens has lead to the formulation of an ambitious Europe-wide learning action plan.

✓ Support is being given to the development of the emergence of a strong European multimedia content industry which is expected to create 1 million new jobs over the next 10 years.

✓ The specific ICT programmes of the 4th RTD Framework Programme are being successfully implemented and the preparation of the 5th Framework Programme has been launched.

✓ The Commission has been instrumental in the successful outcome of major international events aiming to develop global rules underpinning the swift development of the global information society.

With these actions the Commission has established the building blocks of the information society in Europe and has significantly contributed to raising awareness of both the public and decision makers. The necessary climate has therefore been created for unleashing the creative potential and

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[1]   "Europe's way to the information society: An Action Plan" COM (94) 347 of the 19th July   1994

entrepreneurial spirit of Europeans and has put Europe at the forefront of the drive towards the information society.

The present Communication comes as a follow up to the July 1996 Communication entitled *"Information Society: From Corfu to Dublin - The new emerging priorities,"* which announced an updated and revised Action Plan in order to launch a second phase of the EU information society strategy. This action plan addresses Community actions which are complementary to those undertaken by the Member States. The Rolling Action Plan will be complemented in the future by an overview of the transposition of the European regulatory framework into the national legislation of the Member States particularly with respect to the 1st of January 1998 deadline. This forms an important part of the employment pact[2].

II.   THE PRIORITIES OF THE ROLLING ACTION PLAN

Driven by the digital revolution and global competition, the private sector has started investing in and exploring new market opportunities. The success of the Internet, the booming mobile communications market and the emerging multimedia content industry are only a few examples of the huge market potential offered by the information society. These developments demonstrate that whenever technology offers attractive and cost-efficient solutions to meet consumer needs, and whenever the market is operating in a competitive environment, investment and economic output grow with breath-taking speed and new job opportunities become available.

Another key factor for the success of the information society is its social acceptability. The information society is bringing fundamental changes in the way we live and work in a period of high unemployment. This situation brings uncertainties and poses big challenges for workers, citizens, enterprises and public institutions. Therefore, to ensure social acceptance of the information society in Europe, it is essential to meet these challenges with public policies that provide opportunities to develop the employability of workers, support change in the organisation of enterprises, reinforce social cohesion and cultural diversity and enhance people's ability to participate in the information society.

Experience has shown that the success of Europe in the information society will not only depend on how telecommunications and new services are regulated or deregulated, but also on a wider range of factors amongst which innovation plays a central role. For example, by setting GSM as a world standard, the EU has ensured that most GSM-related investments and jobs are to be found in Europe. Internet on the other hand is a success story for the USA which enjoy the main benefits in terms of investment, job and market shares (e.g. amongst the world's 100 most visited Web sites of the Internet, not a single one is European).

The development of the information society requires changes which still have to overcome a certain degree of organisational inertia and psychological resistance as well as financial constraints. This is extremely hard to achieve in a period characterised by high unemployment, pressure on social benefits and budgetary restrictions. Whilst the implementation of the information society is mostly taking place at national, regional or local level, the value-added of Community level actions is to set up a common framework, to co-ordinate various activities and to act as a

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[2]   Action Plan for employment in Europe: A confidence pact (CSE (96) 1)

catalyst. Therefore, **the Rolling Action Plan aims to harness and give more impetus to the implementation of the various measures taken at Member State level**.

The main policy objectives of the Rolling Action Plan have already been outlined in the Communication *"The implications of the information society for European Union policies - Preparing the next steps"*[3]. The Rolling Action Plan also draws upon valuable input from the European Parliament[4], the Council[5], the Information Society Forum[6], the High Level Expert Group and the Industry Advisory Group as well as from the assessment of technological and international developments. It is therefore the result of a wide reflection process on the information society which has led to the identification of four new priority areas:

1) **Improving the business environment** through the efficient and coherent implementation of the liberalised telecommunications environment and the thorough application of the internal market principles (i.e. the free circulation of goods, the free provision of services, the free circulation of capital and the freedom of establishment) in the information society context. Actions are also outlined to promote the introduction of new technologies into daily business activities, in particular with respect to SMEs and for the promotion of satellite personal communication services (S-PCS) in Europe. **Ensuring that the necessary conditions are met for the introduction of electronic commerce** (e.g. copyright, data protection, digital signatures, etc.)[7] is also a major priority.

2) **Investing in the future** primarily depends upon the recognition that the information society **starts in the classroom**. The Florence Summit gave impetus to the educational dimension of the EU information society strategy by asking the Commission to adopt an initiative, *"Learning in the information society[8]",* which now needs to be implemented. However, adapting educational structures and the learning process is mainly a responsibility of the Member States. At the same time **emphasis must also be placed on life-long learning** to enable European citizens, whether in their capacity as consumers or participants in the job market, to adapt to the emerging information society. Broadly speaking, the information society is also a generation phenomenon. Only by introducing specific actions focusing on the younger generation can the best conditions be prepared for access and acceptance of information society by the population at large.

Technologies in the information society are developing fast and if one fails to enter the technology race on time, it may result in an exclusion from the corresponding market. It should therefore be clear for European businesses that keeping abreast of the fast pace of global technology development often requires substantial investment at a relatively early stage of market development (e.g. the development of digital TV, satellite communications and interactive multimedia services). This would allow European players to be better represented in key emerging markets. In this context, the Action Plan refers in particular to the Commission's formal proposal for the Fifth Framework Programme to be presented in March 1997 where detailed proposals on overall

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3   COM (96) 395 of the 24th of July 1996

4   Herman Report of the 19th of September 1996

5   Resolution on "New political priorities regarding the information society", 8th of October 1996

6   Networks for people and their Communities - June 1996

7   The Commission envisages to launch a new strategic initiative to identify and remove the barriers to the development and take-up of electronic commerce

8   COM (96) 471 of the 2nd of October 1996

research priorities for the EU will be set out. A new specific programme will be devoted to the promoting the development of a user-friendly information society.

3) The far-reaching implications of the information society for the citizen have triggered an avalanche of discussions, comments and suggestions on how to put **people at the centre**. Following the consultation process on the Green *Paper "Living and working in the information society: People first"*, the Commission will establish a number of actions to address the key issues identified in the Green Paper and related documents. This will be completed by further actions arising from the debate on the Green Paper on "*Work organisation*". At the same time, the process of using the advantages of the information society in the context of regional policy to promote European cohesion must be addressed. Another important element in this context is the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, such as the right to privacy, in the information society. As regards the crucial issue of job creation, **a significant number of new employment opportunities will result from developments in the services and content sectors**, in particular through new business activities such as electronic commerce and multimedia content creation.

4) While the initial Action Plan did not fully reflect the importance of global co-operation, it is now clear that setting **global rules** is an essential element of the information society. Global rules concern market access, intellectual property rights, privacy and data protection, harmful and illegal on-line content, tax issues, information security, frequencies, interoperability and standards. **The successful completion of the multilateral negotiations on basic telecommunications services in the context of the WTO (World Trade Organisation) are of primary importance for the establishment of such ground rules**. In addition, a review of European laws and policy positions must be launched with a view to reaching international agreements. In this context, the Commission's negotiating powers need to be enhanced in order to strengthen the EU's negotiating position at international level. Meanwhile, appropriate follow-up actions are required in accordance with the conclusions of the conferences held recently with the Mediterranean countries, Central and Eastern European countries and the developing world.

III.   THE GOAL OF THE ROLLING ACTION PLAN

The goal of the Rolling Action Plan is to present a list of all important actions, in particular legal measures, required to further implement the information society in Europe. It presents an updated and comprehensive overview of the main Community measures related to the information society, and thus fulfils four major functions:

1) It provides information about forthcoming Community initiatives in a consistent and transparent way, thereby serving **as a navigation tool for the Member States and other European institutions**, in particular the Parliament. An equivalent level of clarity and transparency would be most welcomed at Member State level.

2) It provides detailed information about the development of the regulatory framework to the business sector, in particular private investors, thereby serving **as a guidance tool for investment decisions**.

3) It provides open information to all interested parties, in particular the public, about the direction of EU policy, thereby allowing **for timely reactions and suggestions as well as a constructive dialogue between the Commission and all relevant segments of society in a user-friendly and democratic way**.

4) In addition, as the information society impacts virtually on all policy areas, the Action Plan also provides a useful **internal management tool** for the Commission.

IV.   CONCLUSIONS

The Commission invites the Council and the European Parliament, as well as the Social and Economic Committee and the Committee of the Regions, to debate the issues involved and give political backing to the development of this Rolling Action Plan for information society.

Annex

EUROPE'S ROLLING ACTION PLAN FOR INFORMATION SOCIETY[1]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1) The structure of the Rolling Action Plan

2) The information society World Wide Web Server

3) The actions

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[1] Status of the 15th of November 1996

1. THE STRUCTURE OF THE ROLLING ACTION PLAN

The initial 1994 Action Plan was organised along four lines of action:

- the regulatory framework
- networks, basic services, applications and content
- social, societal, and cultural aspects
- promotional activities

The Rolling Action Plan has a two-layer structure. The **first layer** describes the current status of the different actions:

- Part A presents forthcoming actions
- Part B presents pending and on-going actions (i.e. actions that have been initiated but have not yet been finalised)
- Part C presents the actions that have been completed since the adoption of the original Action Plan in July 1994.

This structure has been chosen in order to allow for a rolling Action Plan. It must be noted that the initial Action Plan was constantly adjusted and expanded - but only for internal purposes and not as a political instrument. The new structure will allow for a regular and comprehensive official update of the Action Plan.

The **second layer** is built upon the policy priorities identified in the Communication on "*The implications of the information society for EU policies*," i.e.:

- improving the business environment
- investing in the future
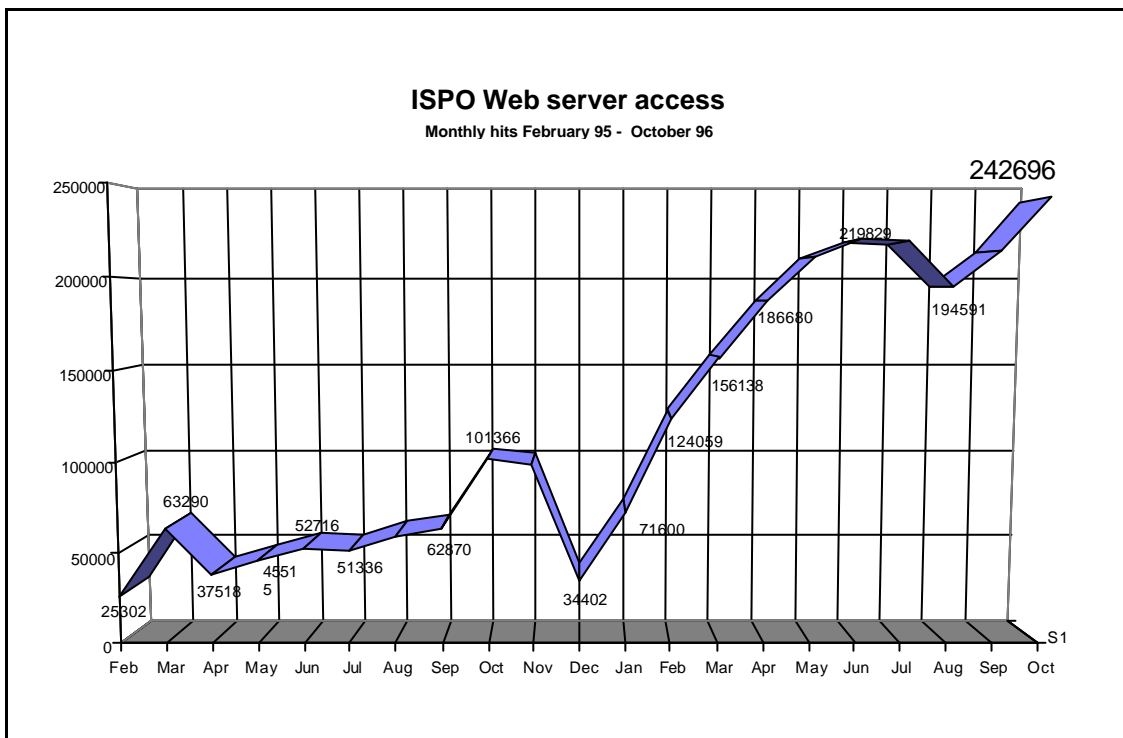- people at the centre
- meeting the global challenge.

The same structure is used for all three parts in order to ensure the coherence of the document as well as to facilitate reading.

2. THE INFORMATION SOCIETY WORLD WIDE WEB SERVER

In order to give interested parties a complete and updated picture of Commission information society-related activities, a dedicated "World Wide Web" server has been set-up by ISPO[2] (**http://www.ispo.cec.be**) which has already been providing information to over a hundred thousand users per month (see graphical representation below).

Furthermore, the "Rolling Action Plan" Web page will be linked through hypertext links to other relevant Web pages, for instance those related to the G7 "Global Inventory" project and the European Commission's "European Survey of Information Society (ESIS)" which hold information about major public and private information society initiatives.

The server will also provide information on sources of financing, forthcoming calls for proposals, as well as, announce relevant conferences and studies.

ISPO Web server access

Monthly hits February 95 - October 96

242696

219829

194591

186680

156138

124059

101366

71600

63290

52716

62870

51336

4551 5

37518

25302

34402

S1

250000

200000

150000

100000

50000

0

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

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[2] ISPO is the Information Society Project Office of the Commission

A. FORTHCOMING ACTIONS

A.1. IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

100	**Communication** on a guide to the regulatory framework of the information society (1998 packet)	Commission adoption	97	After final adoption of the 1998 package of measures, this Communication will be published as a guide to illustrate for users the impact of the 1998 package and to show the inter-relationship in a non-technical way between different measures regarding the information society.
101	**Communication** on the EU and space: fostering applications, markets and industrial competitiveness	Commission adoption	11-97	The Commission proposes to implement new actions to contribute to the development of applications of space-related activities in the EU in the fields of telecommunications, navigation and earth observation.
102	**Communication** and directive on secure transactions including digital signatures in electronic commerce	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	Initiatives in order to set the necessary frame for commercial transactions via the networks.
103	**Communication** on a European standardisation initiative for electronic commerce	Commission adoption	97	The Communication will analyse Europe's position in the standardisation for electronic commerce, identify technical barriers of electronic commerce services and submit proposals on the dissemination of standards, in particular for SMEs. Finally, the role of public authorities in the standardisation process for electronic commerce will be elaborated.
104	**Communication** on an internal market framework for new on-line commercial communications based on home country control and mutual recognition	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	This Communication will be a follow-up to the consultations held in the framework of the Green Paper on commercial communications [COM(96) 192] which was adopted on 8-5-96.
105	**Communication** on information society and industrial aspects	Commission adoption	3-97	The Communication will contain an analysis of the transformation trends in the European industry due to the impact of ICT, both with respect to the production processes and in management and organisation. It identifies the potential benefit of ICT for industry as a strategy for improving competitiveness.

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
106	**Communication** on the application of the competition rules to access agreements in the telecommunications sector.	Commission adoption	3-97	Document setting out competition law principles to increase legal and economic certainty. In particular: (i) summarising past decisions, (ii) clarifying relations between competition law and article 100A-based harmonisation directives, (iii) explaining application of competition rules to converging sectors, especially access issues and gateways.
107	**Communication** on the assessment criteria for national schemes for the costing and financing of universal service and guidelines for the Member States on the operation of such schemes.	Commission adoption	4 Q 96	In order to assist Member States in preparing national reforms in advance of full liberalisation of telecoms in 1998, this Communication identifies the principal elements that the Commission will assess in looking at national universal service schemes which must be notified to the Commission by the end of 1996. It also provides detailed guidelines, building on the existing principles within Community law, which are designed to develop best practice in national approaches to the costing and financing of universal service.
108	**Communication** on the evaluation of the TEDIS programme: Assessment and future steps	Commission adoption	97	The Communication will provide an evaluation of the TEDIS programme which deals with the promotion of the use of EDI in the private sector and focuses on SMEs. Further consideration will in particular be given to promoting the communication links between the private and the public sectors and on focusing on SME needs.
109	**Decision** on the extension of the Action Plan for the introduction of advanced TV services in Europe	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	The Commission is developing a proposal for a follow-up to the first wide-screen Action Plan in order to complete the introduction of the new format into broadcasting.
110	**Decision** on an action plan for the deployment of GNSS (Global navigation satellite systems in Europe) and bilateral agreements with certain third countries	Commission adoption Council and EP adoption	1 Q 97 97	The GNSS rolling action plan provides a framework for the deployment of GNSS in Europe. It will present the remaining technical and institutional activities to be carried out to implement the European contribution to the global system. The Commission will also propose to begin formal negotiations with the other major players, in particular the USA, Russia and Japan. This communication follows a Communication on the same subject [COM(94)248] and a resolution of the EP in May 94 on space transport policy.
111	**Directive** on the access to media ownership	Commission adoption COM (96) Council and EP adoption	4th Q 96 97	Divergent rules on media ownership may cause obstacles to the free flow of media services and to the freedom of establishment of media companies within the community.
112	**Directives** on the harmonisation of certain	Commission adoption	2 Q 97	As announced in the Commission's draft Communication on the matter, this instrument

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
	authors' rights and related rights	Council and EP adoption	97	proposes to further harmonise a number of copyright and related rights aspects, where necessary for the proper functioning of the Internal Market in the I.S. and the needs to bring about a favourable environment which protects and stimulates creativity and innovation across Member States.
113	**Directive** on the legal protection of encrypted services	Commission adoption Council and EP adoption	1 Q 97 97	The Directive will establish a common framework for the legal protection of encrypted services in the EU.
	Consultation Documents			
114	**Green Paper** on the implications of the regulatory framework for telecommunications, audiovisual and publishing	Commission adoption	97	This Green Paper will examine the regulatory implications of the increasing convergence of the telecommunications, audiovisual and publishing industries and will make appropriate proposals.

A.2. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

115	**Communication** on the development of the use of multimedia as pedagogical means in the Community	Commission adoption	97	This Communication follows the Council Resolution relating to educational multimedia software in the fields of education and training of the 6-5-96
116	**Communication** on vocational training in the information society	Commission adoption	1997	This Communication will constitute the complement to the Communication on "Learning in the Information society" (COM (96) 471).
117	**Communication** on GI2000: Towards a European Policy Framework for Geographic Information (GI).	Commission adoption	97	The objective of the communication is to raise awareness and start a discussion at the political level to be followed by the development of an action plan. GI is important because of its value for planning, land management, marketing studies, environment, renewable energy resources, emergency services, health care, political analysis etc.
118	**Decision** on the 5th Framework Programme followed by proposals for the specific programmes	Commission adoption Council and EP adoption	1 Q 97 98	On 10-8-96 the Commission adopted a series of preliminary guidelines for the 5th RTD framework programme. Without prejudice to the final structure and content of the 5th FP, the identified priorities for future research are: unlocking the resources of the living world and the ecosystem; creating a user friendly information society; promoting competitive and sustainable growth.
119	**Communication and directive** on an Action Plan for the deployment of road transport telematics in	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	The Communication is based on the Council Resolution of 28-9-95 on the deployment of road transport telematics. The Action Plan is being elaborated within the

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
	Europe			High Level Group on road transport telematics created in December 1995. It will propose an overall European strategy to carry out this deployment, with legislation, technical harmonisation and co-ordination of implementation and financing of RTT projects (notably through the TEN-T budget). It will also address the basic requirements for the setting up of traffic information and navigation systems in Europe.
120	**Directive** on harmonisation measures for VTMIS (Vessel traffic management and information services)	Commission adoption	4 Q 98	The Directive will present a set of measures directed at the harmonisation of VTS procedures, the level of qualification of operators, the level of services, the interoperability and interconnection of VTMIS.

A.3. PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
121	**Follow up of Green Paper** "People First".	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	An action plan will be developed to address the development of new jobs and working patterns, co-operation between different levels of public administrations, review of regulation, awareness and confidence raising through networking, harnessing the Structural Funds, identification of themes and issues for further analysis.
122	**Communication** on Cohesion and the information society	Commission adoption	12-96	The Communication intends to clarify the relation between the information society and cohesion by indicating a number of actions in the field of demand stimulation, regulatory environment and support of supply. It will particularly concentrate on the potential role of Structural Funds in this domain. It addresses regions, member states, telecom operators and service providers. A Conference on "Regions and the information society" (30/31-1-97) will discuss the ways to better address the implications of the information society in policy actions under the structural funds.

Europe's Rolling Action Plan for Information Society

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
123	**Communication** on the consumer dimension of the information society	Commission adoption	97	The Communication will examine the respective benefits and problems facing consumers as a result of information society developments and will identify areas of action both at a political level and in practical terms (such as the use of new communications technologies for consumer information and education).
124	**Communication** on an action plan to combat illegal and harmful content on the Internet and similar networks	Commission adoption	6-97	The Communication on illegal and harmful content, that was adopted by the Commission on the 16-10-96, indicates a number of policy options to combat this type of content on the Internet. The action plan will, after discussion of these options with the Council and EP, indicate the range of measures necessary to implement these policy options, the means to do this and the actors responsible. It will elaborate the measures necessary to ensure a coherent set of actions at the EU level and the launching of these actions into the global context and will especially address the question of liability for access and service providers.
125	**Decision** on the development of Guidelines for Trans-European data communication networks (TENS) for administrations and identification of projects of common interest for IDA	Commission adoption	97	This follows Council decision 95/468/EC of the 6-11-95 adopting the IDA programme, which invites the Commission to present the Council and the EP new proposals following the mid-term programme evaluation. This proposal concerns the development of guidelines for TENS for administrations and the identification of projects of common interest for IDA in Europe.
126	**Follow up to the Green Paper** on the protection of minors and of human dignity and new audiovisual and information services	Commission adoption	97	The development of new audiovisual and information services will require new types of programme content as well as new ways of producing and financing it. It will also offer new opportunities in terms of cultural and linguistic diversity. The analysis of these issues with a view to identifying ways of encouraging the development of new services will complement other initiatives related to the protection of the public interest in audiovisual and information services.
	Consultation Documents			
127	**Green Paper** on access to public sector information	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	The Green Paper is published in the context of the INFO 2000 programme. It will invite a public debate on two main issues: citizens access to public information and exploitation of public sector information by private information content providers in developing value added services.
128	**Green Paper** on Work Organisation	Commission adoption	97	The implications for labour markets and working lives of new forms of work organisation,

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
				including telework, enabled by the adoption of ICTs, and the roles of public administrations and social partners in raising knowledge and awareness are being addressed.
129	**Green Paper** on public procurement "Pistes de reflection pour l'avenir"	Commission adoption	97	The Green Paper is intended to provide a framework for a wide-ranging debate on a number of issues central to the Community's present and future public procurement policy. One of the issues addressed is electronic procurement and the key role of electronic tendering in further enhancing transparency and access to public procurement.

A.4. MEETING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
130	**Communication** on Information Society and Developing Countries	To be adopted by the Commission	1997	The Communication is a follow-up to the ISAD Conference. It will focus on the redefinition and the re-orientation of previous policies to give a higher priority in development policies to telecommunications infrastructures and applications.
131	**International Conference** for a "Common understanding on means and conditions governing the use of global information networks"	International Conference	1 Q 97	This is an initiative proposed by the German Government at the IS Council of Oct-96. It is intended to address the issue of the distribution of material adversely effecting public order and morality over electronic networks.
132	**International Conference** at G7 level on standardisation aspects of information society	International Conference	9-97	The Conference is market focused and aims to facilitate the timely and coherent development of the Global Information Society (GIS) by identifying and promoting the resolution of outstanding standardisation issues.
133	**International Conference** on the 3rd annual information society Forum with CEECs	International Conference	10-97	
134	**International Conference** with Latin American countries on IS	International Conference	4 Q 97	
135	**Round Table** on information society with Russia	International Conference	97	Support will be given to the organisation of a Round Table with Russia on information society. The round table should target goverment representatives, associations, industry and research bodies.

B. PENDING AND ON-GOING ACTIONS

B.1. IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

200	**Decision** for guidelines covering trans-European Telecom Networks (TEN-Telecom)	Commission adoption Common Position Conciliation procedure launched EP and Council adoption	May-95 21-3-96 9-96 4th Q 96	These guidelines cover the objectives, priorities and broad lines of measures envisaged for the development of trans-European telecommunications networks, with special focus on generic services and applications. Priorities will be on projects of societal interest which have reached a high degree of maturity and are economically viable.
201	**Decision** on the allocation of wide-screen broadcast funding for the introduction of advance TV services in Europe	Commission adoption COM (96) 346 Call for proposal: 1/96 Call for proposal	7- 961-97	Financial support mechanism (Council decision of 22-7-93 93/424/EEC) intended to overcome a market failure: broadcasters would not transmit in the wide-screen format without wide-screen TV sets being available on the market and manufacturers would not mass market wide-screen TVs without broadcasting. It targets broadcasters' and programme producers' extra cost in order to overcome this problem. Its indicative targets are a critical mass of services supported with an increasing volume of wide screen programmes. (The 16:9 screen format is the only globally-agreed parameter for the future of TV, including HDTV).
202	**Decision** on an action at the EU level in the field of satellite personal communication services in the EU	Commission adoption COM (95) 529 Political agreement on Common Position Council and EP adoption	8-11-95 28-9-96 3-97	The proposed decision provides for a co-ordinated approach to the awarding of frequencies and the licensing at a national level of the new satellite based personal communications systems in Europe.
203	**Directive** on interconnection in the context of ONP and universal service	Commission adoption COM(96) 121 Common Position Council and EP adoption	19-7-95 18-6-96 1-97	Within the package of reform measures for 1998, there is general support for a common framework for interconnection between the traditional operators and new entrants. This framework will assist the achievement of universal service. It will create a stable regulatory framework for interconnection which is essential in the future competitive environment.

Europe's Rolling Action Plan for Information Society

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
204	**Directive** on the application of open network provision (ONP) to voice telephony and on universal service for telecommunications in a competitive environment.	Commission adoption COM(96) 419 Council and EP adoption	11-9-96 12-96	The Directive revises and replaces the existing Directive 95/62/EC on the application of (ONP) to voice telephony. It describes the scope of the universal service for telecommunications which must be available to all users in the EU and requires Member States to ensure that this service is affordable, taking into account national situations. The Directive also sets out harmonised conditions for the provision of fixed public telephone networks and publicly available telephone services in the EU.
205	**Directive** updating the open network provision (ONP) and leased lines directives	Commission adoption COM (96) 419 Common Position Council and EP adoption	14-11-96 12-9-96 . 3-97	As required by Council Resolution 93/C213/01 the Commission tabled measures by 1 Jan. 1996 to implement the regulatory framework for a competitive environment in 1998. The adaptation of ONP to this new environment is a central element.
206	**Directive** on licensing of telecommunication services	Commission adoption Political agreement on Common Position Council and EP adoption	14/11/95 28-9-96 3-97	This directive replaces the two proposals that the Commission submitted in 1992 and 1993 on the mutual recognition of licences and the other authorisations for telecom services and satellite communications services that the Council examined under the German Presidency in 1994. The new proposal, based on Article 100a, lays down common rules to apply as regards the procedure and conditions for the grant of general authorisations and individual licences for telecom services.
207	**Directive** on a regulatory transparency mechanism	Commission adoption COM(96) 392 Council and EP adoption	24-7-96 97	The document proposes an internal market mechanism which would ensure that any new national proposals for regulation of new services would be transparent and coherent with existing internal market principles.

B.2. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

208	**Decision** on a specific RTD programme in Information Technologies (ESPRIT)	Council adoption O.J.: Further Calls	11-94 96-98	Focused calls for proposals were held on 15-Dec-94, 15-Mar, 15-Jun, 15-Sept and 15-Dec-95. At least two calls in 1996. The programme contributes to providing technologies, standards and best practices for information society. A special initiative to promote electronic commerce has been launched.
209	**Decision** on a specific RTD programme on Advanced Communications, Technologies and Services (ACTS)	Council adoption O.J.: Further Calls	7-94 96-98	The ACTS programme has been implemented through two major calls for proposals in 1994 and 1995 and a complementary call in 1996. It now involves about 1000 organisations in 158 co-operative technology development projects and over 300 trials on National Host infrastructures. All major European industrial interests are involved, and organisations from over 38 different countries participate.
210	**Decision** on a specific RTD programme on Telematics Applications	Council adoption O.J.: Further Calls	11-94 96-98	The first call for proposals closed on 15-3-95 and a second call on 15-6-95 and a third call closed on 15-1-96. A further call is to be launched on 15-12-96. The implications for the deployment of services and possible actions are being assessed in areas such as healthcare, public administrations, education and training, libraries and related areas, transport, urban and rural development, research networks, disabled and elderly people.
211	**Decision** on a specific RTD programme in the field of transport	Council adoption 94/914/EC O.J.: L 361 Further Calls	15-12-94 31-12-94 96- 97	The first call for proposals closed on 15-3-95 and a second call on 15-3-96. A third call will be launched on 17-12-96 with a closing date of the 17-5-97. The programme contributes to integrating into the transport system a number of technologies linked to the information society notably telematics tools. The programme will also assess the potential policy impact of the use of such technologies.
212	**Decision** on a specific RTD programme on targeted socio-economic research (TSER)	Council adoption Further Calls	12-94 96- 97	Research into the socio-economic aspects of the information society are a major theme of the programme. The first call took place in 1995 and the second in 10-96. Current projects include socio-economic analyses of user-producer interaction, application in the services sector, and learning applications. The second call includes pathways to a European I.S.; quality of working, domestic, social and political life; and effective introduction of ICT into education and training.

B.3. PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

213	**Decision** on the ADAPT-BIS Community Initiative under the Structural Funds	Commission adoption Launching of projects	96 97-99	The ADAPT-BIS (building information society) Community Initiative will reinforce the support currently given to facilitating the adaptation of workers to the information society and the creation of new jobs, in particular SMEs, and to evaluating and promoting innovations in work organisation.
214	**Decision** on the SIMAP (Systéme d'Information pour les Marchés Publics)	Commission adoption COM(95) 107 OJ: C 138 Project launch	3-6-95 95	The first SIMAP projects were launched in July 1994 and entered their pilot phase in November 1995, with the participation of all Member States as well as Norway, Switzerland and Iceland. SIMAP aims to prepare the way for the introduction of electronic tendering procedures for public procurement. Electronic tendering, will be further addressed in the forthcoming Green Paper on Public Procurement.
215	**Decision on IDA Programme:** Telematic interchange of data between administrations	Council adoption Council adoption 95/468/EC Further Calls	20-1-95 6-11-95 96-97	Over 25 trans-European telematics projects are being implemented. IDA users (EC and agencies, other European institutions, Member States administrations) will gradually migrate to the use of common telematic services which will be provided through TESTA (Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations), which is expected to be in operation towards the end of 1997.
216	**Directive** concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the telecommunications sector, in particular in the Integrated Services Digital Networks (ISDN) and in the public digital mobile networks	Common position EP and Council adoption	9-96 5-97	Following the adoption of the general directive (see 1.3) progress is being made on this measure, which provides a specific set of safeguards, based on the general directive, but adapted to the telecommunications sector. It is central to maintaining public confidence in the emergence of, in particular, personal communications in the information society.
217	**Directive** amending the "Television without Frontiers" Directive	Common position SEC 96/1292 Adoption by EP and Council and EP adoption	7-96 1st Q 97	Regulatory framework for transnational movement of television broadcasting services.

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
218	**High Level Expert Group** on the Social and Societal Aspects of the information society	Commission Decision First interim report Final report	21-2-95 1-96 12-96	The Group published its First Reflections report "Building the European information society for us all", in January 1996. This report focuses on the following themes: employment, work organisation, the future of work, labour markets, social cohesion, regional cohesion, education and training, health, culture, media and democracy.
219	**Information Society Forum**	Commission Decision (SEC (95) 287/7) First annual report Second annual report	21-2-95 26-6-96 97	The Forum has 128 members from five main fields of activity: users of the new technologies, social groups, content and service providers, network operators and institutions. The Forum has published its first annual entitled "Network for people and their communities. Making the most of the information society in the EU". This report focuses on the following issues: the cultural dimension, the future of the media, sustainable development, social and democratic values, employment, education, training and learning.
220	**Inter-Regional Information Society Initiative (IRISI)** a) initial 6 regions b) further regional strategies c) inter-regional projects **Regional information society initiative (RISI)** • RISI strategy building (23 regions) • RISI 2 - pilot applications	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Development of regional strategies Launching of projects Duration : 2 years Duration: 3 years	11-94 94 -> 3-97 4 Q 96	IRISI attempted to demonstrate a methodology based on subsidiarity and a bottom-up approach for creating awareness among the general public and decision makers. The six participating [North West of England(UK), Nord Pas-de-Calais(F), Valencia(E), Central Macedonia (GR) and Piemonte(I)] had to outline a strategy on the information society by analysing the base-line situation and assessing the opportunities for building the information society, through a concerted effort bringing together all the relevant regional actors.The innovative nature of the IRISI approach rests on the institutional mechanism by which strategy has been developed, i.e. a partnership between all key players in a region.The success of the IRISI initiatives has convinced the Commission to continue in that direction with a new generation of innovative actions under Art.10 of the ERDF and Art.6 of the ESF. The general approach aims at enabling and facilitating learning processes within a given region and between regions. The initiative has meant that nearly 25% of all eligible regions under the structural funds are currently engaged in this process of strategy building and of its translation into an action plan.

B.4. MEETING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

No	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender	Explanations
221	**Multilateral Negotiations** on basic telecommunications services in the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)	Commission negotiates on behalf of the Community and its Member States. Coordination in the 113 Committee	15-2-97	The establishment of ground rules will be followed by the exchange of commitments opening and securing access to export markets for EU industries. For the Union, these shall be based upon the internal liberalisation process. The aim is to reach a conclusion by 15 February 1997
222	**Negotiations** and **Diplomatic Conference** of WIPO on the possible conclusion of three international treaties (Treaty on certain questions concerning the protection of literary and artistic works; Treaty on the protection of the rights of performers and producers of phonograms; Treaty on intellectual property with respect to databases)	Commission negotiates on behalf of the Community and its Member States with respect to matters of its competence	12-96	The envisaged treaties aim at setting minimum standards of protection for works and other subject matter in the information society at international level. In view of the Community competence for copyright and related rights, the approval of the treaties by the European Community, besides the Member States is crucial.
223	**Negotiations on Information Technology Agreements:** Recommendations on duty reductions for information technology products	Commission negotiates on behalf on the Community and its Member States. Coordination in the Article 113 Committee	96-97	The cornerstone of the agreement is the elimination of tariffs for information technology products between, at minimum, a critical mass of major IT producing countries.
224	**Decision** on a specific programme on international RTD cooperation (INCO) of the 4th Framework Programme for RTD	Council adoption Council adoption Further calls	96-98	R&D projects have already been launched with third countries the process of execution in the field of communication technologies and Telematics applications. Further calls will address information networks for SMEs and research centres, teleworking, telematics applications for health and education, language engineering and the creation of a network of Innovation Relay Centres.

Europe's Rolling Action Plan for Information Society

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
225	**G7 - Pilot Projects**	Launched at the G7 Ministerial Conference in Brussels in February 1995.	2-95	As a result of the G7 conference in Brussels in Feb-95, 11 projects have been launched: Global Inventory Project, Global Interoperability of Broadband Networks, Cross-cultural education and training, Bibliotheca Universalis, Multimedia access to world cultural heritage, Environment and natural resources management, Global emergency management information network initiative, Global healthcare applications, Government On-line, Global marketplace for SMEs, Maritime information Systems.
226	**Information society Forum** with Central and Eastern Europe (Prague) **Follow up actions** on information society in the CEEC's		12/13-9-96 97	In June 1995, the first Forum on the Information Society was held with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. A follow-up meeting of the Forum took place in September 1996 in order to develop a workplan. Four thematic panels were set up in order to prepare the next meeting of the Forum: strategy and policy for I.S., implementation of the Action Plan, education and training, application of ICT in public administrations. An Action Plan has been drawn up outlining a number of future actions.
227	**International Conference** on "the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean information society" (Rome) Follow up of Euro-Mediterranean Conference		30/31-5-96 97	The conference focused on the cognitive dimension of the IS and the regulatory basis for its development. Workshops were held on: research networks, telecommunications regulatory aspects and for educational dimension. These actions were launched as a follow-up of the Ministerial Euro-Med-Conference in Barcelona. Following the conference, a follow-up Action Plan is being prepared which will incorporate three types of measures: dialogue measures (workshops), training programmes and regional pilot and R&D projects.

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender	Explanations - Process
228	**Implementation of Directive** (91/263/EEC, April 1991) on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning telecom terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)		95-now	Art. 10.5 of this Directive states that European regulatory bodies shall recognise documentation issued by third country relevant bodies, when agreements between the Community and the third country concerned have been concluded. A mandate has been given by the Council to the Commission to negotiate MRAs for the regulated areas, by which public authorities will recognise the validity of certificates issued in the territory of the other country. Negotiations are currently taking place between the EU and USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and Japan. Preliminary meetings have taken place with Korea, Singapore and Israel in 1995.

C. ACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS

C.1. Improving the business environment

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender	Explanations - Process
300	**Communication** on consultation on Infrastructure Green Papers	Commission adoption COM (95) 158	5-95	Report on the results of the public consultation on the Commission's proposal for action
301	**Communication** on the present status and future approach for open access to telecommunications networks and services (Open Network Provision - ONP)	Commission adoption COM (94) 513	11-94	The Communication confirmed the importance of the ONP principles of open and efficient access in the liberalised telecoms environment from 1998. It considered the scope of application of ONP and launched the debate prior to the submission of legislation at the end of 1995.
302	**Communication** on the follow-up to the Green Paper on copyright and related rights in the information society	Commission adoption	11-96	The Communication will contain a brief assessment of the consultation procedure around the Green Paper and set out the Commission's working programme in the field of copyright and related rights in the information society in the framework of the Internal Market.

Europe's Rolling Action Plan for Information Society

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
303	**Communication** on Universal Service in telecommunications	Commission adoption COM (96) 73	18-3-96	Building on the consensus established around the infrastructure Green Paper, the Commission presented a survey of the level and availability of universal service within the EU. It also drew together the elements of the 1998 package relating to universal service to propose a strengthening of the concept of voice telephony services, in particular with regard to affordability and quality of service. It also examined the impact of universal service on regional and social cohesion, criteria for its evolution over time and the relationship between universal service and the information society.
304	**Communication** on follow-up to Green Paper on mobile & personal communications	Commission adoption COM (94) 492

Council Resolution | 23-11-94 13-6-95 | The Communication reported on the views expressed in the Consultation on the Mobile G.P. and proposed concrete measures and a timetable to act on the consensus which emerged. On the basis of this, political support was sought from the Member States. |
| **305** | **Communication** on the future development of the market in directories and other telecom information services in a competitive environment | Commission adoption

COM (95) 43 | 10-10-95 | The communication highlighted the importance of directory services in the general context of the information society and described the guidelines and principles which have been set out for directory services in various directives and other Community acts. Both the EP and the Council reacted positively to the communication (Presidency conclusions of 21st March 1996 Telecom Council and EP resolution of 22nd May 1996). |
306	**Communication** on wider use of standardisation to support EU policy	Commission adoption COM(95) 412	30-10-95	
307	**Communication** on "Standardisation and the global information society: The European approach"	Commission adoption COM(96) 359	24-7-96	The aim of this Communication is to examine how, in the light of the characteristics of the ICT market and the ICT standards process, the best possible conditions can be created for the drawing up of standards needed for the implementation of the Information Society, and to indicate by what means the Community intends to promote those aspects for which it has particular responsibility.
308	**Communication** on the directive on mutual recognition of type approval for terminals	Commission adoption COM(96) 114	9-96	The report was published on the 27th of March 1996.

Europe's Rolling Action Plan for Information Society

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
309	**Communication** for the introduction of advanced television services in Europe	Commission adoption COM (96) 346	7-96	Financial support mechanism to assist broadcasters and programme producers with extra costs of introducing wide-screen 16.9 format. The 16.9 screen format is the only globally agreed parameter for the future of TV, including HDTV. It embodies cinema/TV convergence. Publication of a call 96/2 for broadcasting and programme production proposals in Oct 96.
310	**Decision** on guidelines for TEN-ISDN	2717/95/EC Council and EP adoption OJ:	9-11-95	The objective is the development of a range of services and applications based on EURO-ISDN. A number of projects have been launched in 1995 and the 1996 call was issued on 13 April with a closing date of 24th June.
311	**Directive** amending Commission Directive 90/388/EEC of 23-July-1990 regarding the implementation of full competition in telecommunication markets	Commission adoption Directive 96/19 OJ: L 74/13	13-3-96 22-3-96	Following political agreement on the full liberalisation of voice telephony services and infrastructure, this measure gives legal form to the date of the 1st of January 1996 and provides for possible transitional periods for Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Luxembourg subject to Commission approval. The measure also provides for early liberalisation from 1996 of alternative infrastructures for liberalised telecoms services and sets out principles under the competition rules for licensing, interconnection, universal service, numbering and directory services..
312	**Directive** amending Commission Directive 90/388/EEC of 23-July-1990 regarding the abolition of the restrictions on the use of cable TV networks for the provision of telecom services	Commission adoption Directive 95/51/EC OJ: L 256/49	18-10-95 26-10-96	Following political agreement on the early liberalisation of alternative infrastructure for services which are already open to competition, this measure provides for the use of cable television networks to deliver such services from 1996. It also provides for possible transitional periods for Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Luxembourg subject to Commission approval.
313	**Directive** amending Commission Directive 90/388/EEC of 23-July-1990 regarding mobile and personal communications	Commission adoption COM (96) Directive 96/2/EC OJ: L 20/59	16-1-96 26-01-96	The measure fully opens the market for mobile communications to competition as foreseen in the 1994 Mobile Green Paper. It provides for self-provision of infrastructure or use of third party infrastructure and allows from 1998 direct interconnection between mobile networks. It requires Member States to consider requests for licences for DECT systems from 1996 and for DCS 1800 digital mobile networks from 1998.

Europe's Rolling Action Plan for Information Society

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
314	**Directive** on the application of ONP (Open Network Provision) to voice telephony	Commission adoption COM(95) 575 Directive 95/62/EC Council and EP Adoption OJ: L 321/6	27-11-95 13-12-95 30-12-96	This directive has been re-submitted at the urging of EP, following its rejection of the Council Common Position in July 1994, the conciliation procedure having failed over the issue of comitology. The proposal builds on the agreements reached between the Council and the EP during the conciliation procedure. The Directive's three fundamental objectives are: - determining the rights of the users of voice telephony services in their relations with telecommunications bodies - improving access for all users, including the providers of services, to the fixed infrastructure of public telephone networks (the Directive does not apply to mobile telephones) - encouraging the provision of voice telephony services at Community level (see also A.1.10).
315	**Directive** on satellite-communications: liberalisation of satellite services and terminals	Directive 94/46/EC OJ: L 268/15	13-10-94 19-10-94	Following Council Resolution 92/C8/01 the Directive extends the scope of Directives 88/301/EEC and 90/388/EEC to remove monopolies over satellite equipment and services
316	**Directive** on the use of TV-standards	Council and EP adoption Directive 95/47/EC O.J.: 23/11/95 No. L281/5	24-10-95	The Directive provides a regulatory framework for advanced TV (16:9, digital, HDTV) including standards; and deals with the issue of conditional access to digital pay television, following the outcome of an industry-wide consultation on this topic.
317	**Directive** on legal protection of databases	Directive 96/9/EC Council and EP adoption OJ: L 77/20	11-3-96 27-03-96	The Directive provides for the harmonisation of the author's right relating to the structure of databases and for the creation of a new right protecting substantial investments made by makers of databases.
318	**Green Paper** on numbering	Commission adoption	11-96	The rapid development of the telecom market means that reform of the numbering environment will be inevitable. This reform will need to be based on an agreement on the political priorities, stemming both from the liberalisation trend and from changing technological trends. The technical work will follow on from this. The Green Paper is intended to initiate a broad consultation with sector players on these matters.

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
319	**Green Paper** on the legal protection of encrypted services	Commission adoption COM (96) 76	6-3-96	The Green Paper aims to identify, in the light of the Internal Market principles, the measures needed to safeguard the legal protection of encrypted services at an equal level throughout the Community. It is closely related to IPR protection, to media policy and to the Directive on satellite and cable broadcasting of 1993.
320	**Green Paper** on the liberalisation of telecom infrastructure and cable TV networks: principles & timetable (Part I)	COM (94) 440 Council Resolution EP Resolution	17-11-94 4-95	The Green Paper establishes the general principle of the free choice of infrastructure to deliver services already open to competition. It proposes immediate limited action and links full competition to the 1998 date for services liberalisation.
321	**Green Paper** on the liberalisation of telecom infrastructure and cable TV networks: implementation measures (Part II)	COM (94) 682 Council Resolution EP Resolution May-95	13-6-95 5-95	The Green Paper has launched a consultation on the issues raised by allowing competition in infrastructure for the basic telephone service and the relevant safeguards. It sets out future policy on infrastructure liberalisation and initiates public debate on the issues.
322	**Green Paper** on copyright and related rights in the information society	Commission adoption COM (95) 382	Jul-95	The Green Paper identifies in detail those issues in the field of copyright where initiatives may be needed with respect to the IPRs exploited for the new electronic services. It is based on the conclusions of a hearing with interested circles in July 1994. The deadline for written submissions was end October 1995. A hearing on certain specific questions in relation to technical systems of identification and protection and on certain aspects related to the acquisition and administration of rights took place in January 1996. The consultation process was closed in the context of a Conference on the matter held in Florence in June 1996.
323	**Recommendations** relating to the legal aspects of electronic data interchange (EDI)	Commission adoption	19-10-94	EDI users are recommended to use a European model EDI Agreement and Member States are recommended to facilitate the use of this model agreement, which legal provisions aim at providing a contractual approach to the legal issues related to the use of EDI.

C.2. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

324	**Communication** on a methodology for the implementation of information society applications	Commission adoption COM (95) 224	13-6-95	This communications proposes a methodological approach of a general nature for the implementation of all types of applications which represent the driving force of the information society.
325	**Communication** on Information Society: From Corfu to Dublin, The new emerging priorities	Commission adoption COM (96) 395	24-7-96	The objective of this communication is to indicate the impact of the information society on European Union policies, thereby highlighting future priorities: improving of the business environment; investing in the future; putting people at the centre; meeting the global challenge. The information society Council of the 8-10-96 welcomed the intention of the Commission to present a revised action plan to the Dublin Summit.

C.3. PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

326	**Communication** on telematics applications for transport in Europe	Commission adoption COM (94) 469 Resolution EP Council resolution 95/264/01	4-11-94 6-95 28-9-95	The communication provides the basis for an action plan for the implementation of Transport Telematics in Europe. Financial engineering of public-private partnerships needs closer attention. The Council Resolution of Sept-95 concentrates on Telematics Applications in Road Transport, identifies priorities for short term actions and recommends the setting up of a High Level group to assist the Commission with the strategy for deployment.

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
327	**Communication on** Teaching and learning - Towards the learning society	Commission adoption COM(96) 471	2-10-96	Requested by the European Council at Florence (June 1996), the proposed action plan is aiming at increasing the synergies among national initiatives to promote the use of new technologies in education. The objectives are to speed up the diffusion of common multimedia platforms for learning, the development of quality educational content, the training of teachers and the exchange of experiences through setting up a European school network based on the interconnection of existing school networks. A European conference (Dec-96, Brussels) will take stock of developments in national schools networks, as well as needs, experiences and difficulties encountered.
328	**Communication** on harmful and illegal content on Internet	Commission adoption COM (96) 487	16-10-96	The Communication refers to the legal and regulatory challenges posed by content circulating on the Internet, giving particular emphasis on the issue of harmful and illegal content. It proposes options for short term action to combat or control such content (self-regulation, technical protection means, improved international co-operation, education and awareness).
329	**Decision** on the Media II Programme	Commission adoption COM(95) 263 Council adoption 95/564/EC Council adoption 95/563/EC	22-6-95 22-12-95 10-7-95	Financial support mechanisms for key sectors of the programmes industry. The Commission's proposal has two parts: MEDIA II - training (1996 - 2000). A programme for the training of professionals of the European audiovisual programme industry MEDIA II - development and distribution (1996 - 2000). This programme aims to promote the development and the distribution of audiovisual works.
330	**Decision** on guidelines for the trans- European transport network	Council and EP adoption OJ: L 228	9-9-96	Intelligent transport systems (ITS) for traffic management, positioning and navigation is an integral part of the Trans European Networks-Transport guidelines. They include the necessary technical installations and information and telecommunications systems to ensure harmonious and efficient traffic management. All the priorities of the guidelines such as connections, key links, interconnections, interoperability, provisions relating to the environment, the optimisation of capacity and efficiency, safety apply to ITS and require the use of ITS for their achievement.

Europe's Rolling Action Plan for Information Society

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
331	**Decision** on INFO 2000 Programme	Commission adoption COM (95) 149 Council adoption 96/339/EC	30-6-95 20-5-96	A multi-annual programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging information society.
332	**Decision** on a Multi-annual programme on Multiligualism in the Information Society Programme (MLIS)	Commission adoption COM (96) 456 Council adoption O.J. :	2-10-96 8-10-96	The multiannual programme promotes multilingualism in the information society and has been allocated a budget of 15MECU. It includes the following action lines: a. Support for the creation of a framework of services for European Languages; b. Encouraging the use of modern language technologies, resources and standards; c. Promoting the use of advanced language tools in the European public sector; d. Accompanying measures.
333	**Directive** on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data	EP and Council adoption 95/46/EC OJ: L 281/31	24-10-95 23-11-95	The general directive provides for a number of rights for the data subject and of obligations on the controller of data processing (fair processing, quality of data, law- fullness of processing, notification of certain processing). The directive is designed to ensure a high level of protection for individuals and creates a level playing field for the free circulation of personal data in the Community. The principles of the Directive apply to all areas of the Information Society and will constitute the basis for specific rules in the telecommunications field
334	**Green Paper:** Living and working in the Information Society: People first	Commission adoption COM(96) 389	24.7.96	The Green Paper forms the basis for a wide discussion on social, economic and technological challenges in the context of employment and economic structure, future of work, labour market and learning and living in the Information Society. A consultative process was officially launched in a Colloquium held in Dublin and organised together with the Irish Presidency. Contributions and reactions to the Green Paper will be invited from the widest possible audience until the end of 1996.
335	**Green Paper** on the protection of Minors and Human Dignity in Audiovisual and Information Services	Commission adoption COM (96) 483	16-10-96	The Green Paper will initiate a medium to long term reflection on the issue of the protection of minors and human dignity in audiovisual and information services.

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
336	**White Paper** on "Teaching and learning - Towards the learning society"	Commission adoption COM(95) 590	29-11-95	This White Paper is part of a process designed simultaneously to provide an analysis and to put forward guidelines for action in the fields of education and training. After describing what is at stake and analysing the changes which need to be considered, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, the White Paper suggests five general objectives for action setting out for each of them one or more support projects at Community level.

C.4. MEETING THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
337	**International Conference** at G7 ministerial level on information society (Brussels)		2-95	A meeting of relevant G7 ministers took place in Brussels on Feb 25-26 1995. The meeting emphasised the necessity to encourage the development of a world-wide information society. Eleven pilot projects were identified for international cooperation. The implementation of the G7 conclusions across the different EC policies related to Information Society is under way. A progress report on the pilot project was presented at the Halifax G7 meeting in June
338	**International Conference** on information society and development (ISAD) in South Africa		13/15-5-96	South African Vice President Mbeki, proposed at the occasion of the G7 Conference in Brussels an Information Society Conference with the developing countries hosted by South Africa. The conference took place in May with the participation of many developing countries. Contacts have been established with the Egyptian government for the preparation of a follow-up meeting.

DELETED ITEMS

112	**Directive** updating the directive on mutual recognition of type approval for terminals, in particular in respect of mobile terminals	Commission adoption COM (96) Council and EP adoption	11-96 97	Action in the context of the Green Paper on mobile communications which aims at extending the scope of existing directive 91/263, in view of full liberalisation of all telecom services by 1 Jan. 1998
109	**Decision** on an Action Plan "Leading-by-example": The role of the European institutions as facilitators for electronic commerce	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	The Action Plan will describe best practice options for public administrations and propose actions enabling the EU institutions "to lead by example" by setting ambitious targets for the use of the new technologies and the re-engineering of administrative procedures that facilitate the seamless exchange of data in support of business activity.
118	**Initiatives** on digital signatures	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	The Commission is considering the alternative legislative approaches to take on the issue of digital signatures.
121	**Communication** on electronic toll collection and fee payments for road transport	Commission adoption	4 Q 1997	This Communication is based on the Council Directive of 25-10-93 on the applications by Member States of taxes on certain vehicles used for the carriage of goods by road, and tolls and charges for the use of certain infrastructures. there is a strong request from the European industry for a stabilisation of the specifications for the production of automatic toll collection equipment.
126	**Directive** on harmonisation measures in deployment of road transport telematics	Commission adoption	1 Q 97	Based on the Council Resolution of the 28-9-95 on the deployment of road transport telematics , this will include all the basic requirements for the setting up of traffic information and navigation systems in Europe.
128	**Communication** on the deployment of telematics applications in health	Commission adoption	97	This Communication will cover health care applications as well as standardisation issues and training.
132	**Communication** on the follow-up to the Green Paper on access to and exploitation of public sector information	Commission adoption	97	The Communication will contain an assessment of the reactions received from the Member States and from market actors (industry and users). It will describe actions foreseen to improve accessibility of public sector information and will indicate ways to enable the private sector to exploit more extensively the market potential of public sector information.

No Implications	Specific Measures	Decision Making	Calender Process	Explanations -
	Decision on interoperability of IDA networks	Commission adoption	97	This follows Council decision 95/468/EC of the 6-11-95 adopting the IDA programme, which invites the Commission to present the Council and the EP new proposals following the mid-term programme evaluation. This proposal concerns the adoption of measures to ensure interoperability of networks for the interchange of data between administrations in Europe.